

West Woodland Elementary School

Landmark Nomination Report

5601 Fourth Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107

February 2019

Prepared by:
The Johnson Partnership
1212 NE 65th Street
Seattle, WA 98115-6724
206-523-1618, www.tjp.us





The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700

Name West Woodland Elementary School Year Built 1990
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 5601 Fourth Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107

Assessor's File No. 276800-0375

Legal Description See below

Plat Name: GILMAN PARK ADD TGW Block 110 Lot 10 to 18
111 1 to 18

LOTS 10 TO 18, INCLUSIVE, BLOCK 110, AND LOTS 1 THROUGH 18, INCLUSIVE, BLOCK 111, GILMAN PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 8 OF PLATS, PAGE 40, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

Present Owner: Seattle Public Schools Present Use: Elementary School

Address: 2245 Third Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134

Original Owner: Seattle Public Schools

Original Use: Elementary School

Architect: Olson Sundberg Architects

Builder: Cree Construction Co., Inc.

Photographs



Submitted by: Paul Wight, Seattle Public School District No. 1

Address: Mail Stop 22-334, P.O. Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1165 pdwight@seattleschools.org

Phone: _____ Date _____

Reviewed: _____ Date _____

Historic Preservation Officer

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West Woodland Elementary School Landmark Nomination Report

FEBRUARY 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

This Landmark Nomination Report provides information regarding the architectural design and historical significance of the school building located at 5601 Fourth Avenue NW on the eastern edge of the West Woodland neighborhood, west of the Phinney Ridge neighborhood in Seattle, Washington. The building was designed and constructed in 1990 by the Seattle architectural firm of Olson/Sundberg Architects. The building was documented on the Seattle Historical Site survey in 2002. The Johnson Partnership prepared this report at the request of the owner of the property, Seattle Public Schools.

1.1 Background

The City of Seattle's Department of Construction and Development (SDCI)—formerly the Department of Planning and Development—through a 1995 agreement with the Department of Neighborhoods, requires a review of “potentially eligible landmarks” for commercial projects over 4,000 square feet in area. As any proposed alterations or demolition of the subject building described within this report will require a permit from DCI, the owner is providing the following report to the staff of the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board (LPB) to resolve the property's status.

To be eligible for nomination as a City of Seattle Landmark, a building, object, or structure must be at least 25 years old, have significant character, interest, or value, the integrity or ability to convey its significance, and it must meet one or more of the following six criteria (SMC 25.12.350):

- A. It is the location of or is associated in a significant way with an historic event with a significant effect upon the community, city, state, or nation.
- B. It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state, or nation.
- C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, city, state, or nation.
- D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, period, or method of construction.
- E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.
- F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrast of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or city.

1.2 Methodology

Larry E. Johnson, AIA, Principal Emeritus, Ellen F. C. Mirro, Principal, AIA, Katherine V. Jaeger, and Audrey N. Reda of The Johnson Partnership, 1212 NE 65th Street, Seattle, WA, completed research on this report between January and February 2019. Research was undertaken at the Seattle Public Schools Archives, Puget Sound Regional Archives, Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, Seattle Public Library, the Museum of History and Industry, and the University of Washington Special Collections Library. Research also included review of Internet resources, including HistoryLink.com, and the Seattle Times digital archive, available through the Seattle Public Library. The buildings and site were inspected and photographed on January 10, 2019 to document the existing conditions.

2. PROPERTY DATA

Historic Building Names: Ross Annex, West Woodland Elementary School

Current Building Name: West Woodland Elementary School

Address: 5601 Fourth Ave NW

Location: Ballard & Phinney Ridge Neighborhoods

Assessor's File Number: 276800-0375

Legal Description:

LOTS 10 TO 18, INCLUSIVE, BLOCK 110, AND LOTS 1 THROUGH 18, INCLUSIVE, BLOCK 111, GILMAN PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 8 OF PLATS, PAGE 40, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

Date of Construction: 1990

Original/Present Use: Elementary School

Original/Present Owner: Seattle Public Schools

Original Designer/Builder: Olson/Sundberg Architects/Cree Construction Co., Inc.

Zoning: SF 5000

Property Size: 151,400 s.f.

Building Size: 55,100 s.f.

3. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

3.1 Location & Neighborhood Character

The subject building is located at 5601 Fourth Avenue NW on the eastern edge of the West Woodland neighborhood, considered a portion of the greater Ballard neighborhood, near and to the west of the Phinney Ridge neighborhood in Seattle, Washington.

The School site is approximately one-third mile west of Woodland Park and approximately one-half mile southeast of the Ballard commercial district. The relatively small West Woodland commercial district is located approximately three blocks to the north. The immediate neighborhood is mostly residential, with mixture of older residential properties and newer multi-family residential buildings. Nearby City of Seattle Landmarks include the John B. Allen School to the northeast (6601 Dayton Avenue N; James Stephen, 1904; Edgar Blair, 1918), the Fitch/Nutt House (4401 Phinney Avenue, 1900) to the southeast, and the former Ballard Carnegie Library (2026 NW Market Street, Henderson Ryan, 1904) and Ballard Avenue Historic District to the southwest. The Rasmus Peter Jenson house (404 NW 60th Street, 1893), the original farm house of the area's first white homesteader, is located approximately one block to the north. *See figures 1-2.*

3.2 Site

The subject site measures approximately 466'-0" north-south along Fourth Avenue NW on the southern property line and approximately 366'-0" east-west feet along NW 56th and NW 58th streets on the southern and northern sides of the site, respectively. The western edge of the site measures approximately 466'-0" north-south along the property line. This edge of the site abuts a row of residential properties along Sixth Avenue NW, with one commercial building at the southern end. The site is relatively flat running north-south, sloping downward approximately seven feet to the south, but slopes up approximately 20 feet from the west toward Fourth Avenue NW.

The site has paved sidewalks on the northern-, eastern-, and southern-adjacent rights-of-way. Relatively young street trees are planted on the parking strips of the northern, eastern sides, while only the western portion of the southern side hosts young trees. A mature street tree is located near the southeastern corner of the site, and the western site boundary is lined with a screen of evergreen trees. A recessed bus loading zone stretches nearly the entire length of the eastern (Fourth Ave NW) right of way, and a smaller loading area is located on the southern (NW 56th Street) right of way.

The long, narrow school building is located on the eastern portion of the site. Playfields, both grass and paved, are located on the western portion. A 16-car parking lot is located adjacent to the northern portion of the school building. A paved play-court is located to the west of the central portion of the school building. The site includes three nondescript wood-framed gable-roof portable buildings. The portable located near the middle of the site and adjacent to the school building measures approximately 65'-0" north-south by 30'-0" east-west. The two portables located near the southwestern corner of the school building and adjacent to NW 56th Street vary slightly in size. The northern portable is approximately 65'-0" east-west by 30'-0" north-south; the southern portable is approximately 70'-0" east-west by 30'-0" north-south. *See figures 3-12.*

3.3 Building Structure & Exterior Features

The school building is relatively narrow and extends nearly the entire length of the site approximately 407'-0" north-south. The width of the building is approximately 75'-0" east-west, except for the northern portion that has an overall width of approximately 148'-0" feet at its widest point. The highest point of the two-story building, the gymnasium's monitor roof, is approximately 44'-0" above grade. Near the northern end of the building projects the Learning Resources Center (LRC) wing. The LCR wing runs perpendicular from the building, westward towards the playground. The Multi-purpose room/gymnasium also has a larger footprint expanding outward to the west. The southern end of the

building has a rounded wing extending southward, which houses the lunch room. The building is mainly of wood-frame construction with a brick masonry veneer of pewter and terra cotta-colored bricks laid in a standard running bond. The gymnasium is constructed of reinforced concrete masonry with a brick veneer. The building has a concrete foundation and the floors are slab-on-grade construction. The roofs, generally hip roof or hip roof with monitors, are all supported by steel bar joists, steel trusses, and steel beams. The roofing is primarily composition shingles over building felt, plywood, and steel decking. All windows are commercial aluminum sash unless otherwise noted.

The building's main entrance is located near the northern end of the eastern façade. Because the site slopes downward approximately seven feet from the northern to southern end, the main entry floor level is set mid-level between the first and second floor to allow a split-level entry stairway to access both the lower and upper level of the two-story classroom wing, which extends southward from the main entry. The main entry has an arched or "eyebrow" roof supported visually by two pairs of round columns with an upper lintel composed of a pair of steel channel sections. The face of the arched roof is flat with a stucco finish. The name of the school stretches across the face of the arch. The entry doorway has three flat-panel doors, each with a round glazed door-light. A steel canopy extends outward between the columns and is supported by steel cable tied back to the entrance façade. The roof of the canopy is composed of transparent Kalwall® panels. The recessed doorway is flanked by 20-light aluminum sash windows. On the northern side of the entry, the one-and-a-half-story gymnasium façade has a lower wainscot of pewter bricks while the upper wall portion is laid up with terra cotta-colored brick masonry. To the south of the entry the grade slopes downward, exposing the lower floor walls and glazing. The line created by the two colors of brick masonry continues on the southern portion of the façade. The upper floor has six groups of two pairs of aluminum-sash windows spaced across the façade. Each window has a lower awning light, a two-light fixed transom light, and a lower precast concrete panel. Two smaller four-light windows situated at transom height interrupt the regular window spacing. The lower floor has three utility doorways on the northern side, while the southern portion has three groups of two pairs of aluminum-sash windows spaced across the façade directly under the upper floor windows. A pair of exit doorways is located on the lower level at the southern end of the two-story portion of the façade. The southernmost portion of the eastern façade, the one-story lunchroom wing, is faced completely with pewter brick masonry. Located near the northern portion of the childcare wing is an aluminum-sash window with a lower awning light and a two-light fixed transom. *See figures 13-19.*

Childcare Wing

Located at the far southern end of the building, the eastern façade curves into the rounded southern façade of the childcare wing. The plan is nearly circular, with the circle clipped on the western side, forming a covered entry under the circular roof. The façade is faced with pewter brick and is nearly blank, with the exception of an egress doorway on the western side. The southern façade of the two-story classroom wing is blank on the eastern side and the western portion has four small square aluminum-sash windows on both the upper and lower floors.

The western façade of the childcare wing is faced with pewter brick masonry and has a recessed entry with a pair of glazed entry doors flanked by three-light aluminum-sash sidelights. The doors and sidelights have upper divided-light transom windows. The round roof with upper monitor continues around this side of the lunchroom, creating a cover for the entry. The roof is supported by three square brick masonry columns. *See figures 19-20.*

Classroom Wing

The two-story classroom wing to the north of the childcare wing is similar to the eastern façade. The line created by the two different colors of brick masonry continues along this façade. On the upper floor is a pair of aluminum-sash windows. Six additional sets of aluminum-sash windows, grouped in pairs of two, are spaced across the façade. Each window has a lower awning light, a two-light fixed transom light, and a lower precast concrete panel. One smaller four-light window situated at transom height is placed between the southern and northern window groups and a vertical two-light window is located at the

northernmost end of the two-story classroom wing. The lower floor has a pair of similar windows at its southern end. Two bays slant away from the building, angling towards the north to provide light to the two kindergarten classrooms. Each of these bays has a group of three aluminum-sash windows with a lower awning light and a two-light fixed transom light. Additional five-light windows mounted at transom height extend southward from the larger window. To the north of the bay is a single pair of windows with a lower awning light, a two-light fixed transom light, followed by a pair of glazed egress doors with upper transom lights. Between the doorway and the northern end of this façade section are three additional groups of two windows with a lower awning light and a two-light fixed transom light. *See figures 22-25.*

Learning Resource Center

The southern façade of the projecting western Learning Resource Center (LRC) wing continues with the line created by the two masonry colors. The upper floor has two groups of small, square, aluminum-sash windows: a group of five on the western side, and a group of four on the eastern side. The lower floor of the LRC wing has a large semi-circular projecting bay with five large, central, lower windows. Of these five windows, the outer two are fixed and the inner three are awning windows, with an upper row of 24 transom windows, all of aluminum sash.

The western façade of the LRC wing has two pairs of windows on the southern portion, each having a lower awning light, a two-light fixed transom light, and a lower precast concrete panel. The lower floor has a pair of similar windows under the two pairs above. The northern side has a pair of glazed egress doors on the lower floor with a large 15-light transom window extending upward as far as the upper-floor window head height.

The northern façade of the LRC wing has a row of four small square aluminum-sash windows on the upper floor. The façade at the lower floor is blank with pewter brick masonry. *See figures 26-30.*

Gymnasium

The gymnasium's western façade has a slightly projecting one-story section abutting the one-and-a-half-story gymnasium. Both sections are blank brick masonry with the exception of a loading dock on the northernmost side of the one-story portion.

The northern gymnasium façade also has a projecting one-story section abutting the one-and-a-half-story gymnasium. This one-story portion of the building wraps around the gymnasium's northwestern corner and extends approximately two-thirds the width of the gymnasium. Both sections of this façade are nearly blank with the exceptions of a single egress doorway at the western end of the one-story section and a row of six large pairs of aluminum-sash windows with upper transom lights. At the northeastern corner of the façade is a sunken cooling tower area with a single access door. A decorative metal grill aligns with both the northern and eastern façades at this location. *See figures 31-35.*

3.4 Exterior Playground Features

The playground is located on the western half of the site and includes asphalt, grass, and soft surface play areas. To the south, the asphalt play area contains two of the three portable buildings currently on site. The elevated area is supported by a tall retaining wall, parts of which were constructed in both the 1940s and in 1991. This wall is ornamented with decorative mosaic at one location.

North of the portables is a soft surface area with play equipment and a curved asphalt playground. This area is surrounded by low concrete retaining walls. Two symmetrical ramps lead down to the grass playfield area that abuts the western edge of the site. An approximately six-foot-wide running track surrounds the field.

The far northwestern corner of the site is occupied by an asphalt playground with a basketball court and two tetherballs. The concrete retaining wall on the eastern side of this playground has a long, painted mural. *See figures 36-46.*

3.5 Plan & Interior Features

As stated above, the school building is long and relatively narrow, with the two-story double-loaded classroom wing extending southward from the main entrance, with a split-level entrance stairway on the northern end of the eastern façade.

A rounded one-story child-care facility is located at the southern end of the classroom wing. The administration office is located directly opposite the main eastern entry. A northern corridor leads to an "arts and science room" (computer lab) on the upper floor and the Learning Resource Center (library) on the lower floor. The multipurpose room and gymnasium are located on the lower floor of the building's northern side. The multipurpose room has a platform at one end. There are twelve typical classrooms on the upper floor nine on the lower floor.

The building's interior is lit by exterior windows, interior relights, and recessed ceiling lighting. Walls and some ceilings are generally painted gypsum drywall. Most classrooms and the LRC have suspended acoustical ceilings with fluorescent lighting. The lower half of the gymnasium wall is painted concrete, while the upper half is painted CMU.

Flooring is typically vinyl tile, with commercial tile carpeting in the main lobby, LRC, and classrooms, and maple flooring in the gymnasium. *See figures 47-74.*

3.6 Documented Building Alterations

There have been practically no alterations to the current West Woodland Elementary school building since its construction in 1990, with the exception of the three exterior portable buildings. In 1990 a permit was issued to construct a new public school with a daycare. Permits issued that same year and in 1991 included those for wiring the school, a permit for the fire alarm system, an energy management system, a permit for 169 low voltage devices, and a permit for a boiler/pressure vessel, and others. In 1992 permits issued included those for the sprinkler system, the electrical system, and the installation of an exhaust fan.

In 2001, alterations made to room 148 converted it to a telecommunications room.

Recorded Permits:

Date	Description	Owner	Contractor	Permit #
8-01-90	Construct Public School with Daycare per plans, grading 3320 Cut/ 8950 Fill	SPS		651827
8-31-90	Temp 100A	SPS		682177
9-26-90	Wire West Woodland School Complete	SPS		683018
2-04-91	Temp 100A serv.	SPS		686271
2-25-91	Fire alarm only	SPS		686729
2-27-91	Energy Management System	SPS		686850
4-30-91	Refer	SPS		R6535
8-01-91	169 low voltage devices	SPS		691052
8-19-91	Boiler/ Pressure vessel	SPS		B67310
6-18-92	V-N & Fully Sprinklered V-1 HR	SPS		651827
7-15-92	Electrical	SPS		700455
7-8-00	Install exhaust fan, subject to field inspection (STFI)	SPS		714544

2-6-01	Alterations to Room 148 for telecommunications room. Subject to Field Inspection.	SPS		713708

4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Historic Neighborhood Context: West Woodland, Ballard & Phinney

The West Woodland neighborhood, while existing as a distinct area known by this name since before its 1891 annexation into Seattle, is overshadowed by its better-known neighbors—Ballard to the west and Phinney Ridge to the east. As such, the history of West Woodland is closely intertwined with that of its neighbors.

Shilshole-amish in Ballard

Ballard’s first settlers were a group of people known as the Shilshole-amish, (alternatively Shul-shales), a band of the Duwamish. The Shilshole Indians were one of the eight or nine principal tribes who lived in what we now call Greater Seattle. The word Shilshole comes from the word *cilole*, meaning “to thread a needle,” referring to canoe travel up from Salmon Bay.”¹ Historian David Buerge has determined that the area around the narrow Shilshole-Salmon Bay inlet, leading to the freshwater interior, was once the center of a large community whose area extended from Mukilteo to Smith Cove.² The land that would become known as Ballard was the ancestral hunting grounds for the Shilshole.³

By the mid 1880s, even before the arrival of white settlers, the Shilshole population was in decline. By 1862, about a dozen native families remained. These families were led by a man named Hwelchteed. He was also referred to as Salmon Bay Curley. This man may have been the same person as Shilshole Charlie, also known by Siwash Charlie or Salmon Bay Charlie, who lived with his wife, Cheethluleetsa (also known as Madeline), in a cedar home on the south shore of Salmon Bay (present-day Magnolia). “Charlie” was a name used by white settlers. For nearly 50 years Hwelchteed sold berries, salmon, and clams to the first of the settlers and then to soldiers at Fort Lawton.

By the 1880’s, only two Shilshole families remained near Salmon Bay, others having perished from disease or been forcibly relocated to reservation land. By the 1910s, Hwelchteed and Cheethluleetsa were the last remaining members of the Shilshole in Ballard. After Cheethluleetsa’s death around 1914, Hwelchteed was taken to the Port Madson Reservation and his cabin was burned.^{4 5} *See figures 75-76.*

The City of Ballard and Annexation to Seattle

The City of Seattle City Clerk assigns the West Woodland Neighborhood to the greater Ballard area of Seattle.

Before it was annexed to the City of Seattle in 1907, Ballard was a well-developed suburban community with a prominent Scandinavian population. Its major industries were fishing, fish canneries, sawmills, and boat building. Ira Wilcox filed the first homestead claim in the area in 1852. Judge Thomas Burke and

¹ Julie D. Pheasant-Albright, *Images of America: Early Ballard*. (Charleston SC, Chicago IL, Portsmouth NH, San Francisco CA, Arcadia Publishing 2007), p. 12.”

² “Sheel-shol-ashbsh” translates to “threading the bead,” which described the canoe trip to lakes Union and Washington. Paul Dorpat, “Seattle Now & Then: ‘Threading the Bead’ Between Magnolia and Ballard,” Seattle Now and Then, December 8, 2010, <https://pauldorpat.com/2010/12/18/seattle-now-then-threading-the-bead-between-magnolia-and-ballard/> (accessed February 2019).

³ Mrs. E. J. O’Keefe, “The History of West Woodland Elementary School,” report for the Seattle Public Schools, n.d.

⁴ Pheasant-Albright, p. 12.

⁵ Peter Lape, “A story told in stone and wood: The Coast Salish and historic Seattle,” Burke Museum, October 4, 2016, <https://www.burkemuseum.org/blog/story-told-stone-and-wood-coast-salish-and-historic-seattle> (accessed April 2019).

Daniel H. Gilman bought land in 1880, anticipating construction of the Great Northern Railway. Along with John Leary and the West Coast Improvement Company, Burke and Gilman built the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad in the district of Gilman Park. William Ballard bought a sawmill with Charles Stimson on Salmon Bay. Ballard also managed Gilman Park, and lent his name to the town of Ballard when it incorporated in 1890. Ballard City Hall was built in 1899. The timber mill produced enough wooden shingles for Ballard to proclaim itself the “Shingle Capitol of the World.” Scandinavian immigrants constituted about one third of Ballard’s population, and this group had a major cultural influence on Ballard, which earned the nickname “Snoose Junction” after the Scandinavians' preference for snuff and chewing tobacco.⁶ Ballard residents approved annexation to the City of Seattle in 1906 to keep up with growing demand for infrastructure, and in hopes of improving a polluted water supply.⁷ The City of Ballard ceased to exist on May 29, 1907. On that day Ballard City Hall was draped in black crepe, and the flag on the city flagpole hung at half-mast⁸

By 1896 at least 14 separate rail lines were operating independently in Seattle. At that time the West Street & North End Electric Railway came from the downtown Seattle waterfront, passed through Interbay, crossed the Salmon Bay Waterway from 13th Avenue W to the south and Railroad Avenue to the north and followed C Street west, continued northwest up Ballard Avenue, and ended at Third Avenue W.⁹ The Boston-based cartel Stone & Webster controlled the Seattle Electric Company and consolidated many of the small utilities companies, streetcar, and cable car lines between 1899 and 1903.¹⁰ Once the Seattle Electric Company had consolidated Seattle’s street railway system in 1911, the company modernized and increased the efficiency of the entire system. Distribution and transmission lines were interconnected and unified and new equipment was purchased. The company adopted universal transfers allowing riders to travel from one part of the city to another for a single fare.¹¹ The company also embarked on an aggressive expansion, running new lines to developing areas, to bolster speculative real estate development. In 1902 the company added the Fremont-Ballard line. In 1914, the local passenger car mile totaled 12,383,056 miles, plus an additional 354,921 freight miles. Passengers took a total of 12,737,977 individual trips in that year.¹² The Seattle Municipal Railway went into public ownership in 1919. By 1932 the Ballard Way streetcar line ran all the way to Loyal Heights, with northward branches running along 20th Avenue NW, and westward along NW 59th Street.

The Hiram Chittenden Locks (1911–1917) changed the geography of Ballard. The Ballard Bridge was rebuilt slightly to the west, making 15th Avenue NW a major thoroughfare. Consequently, the streetcar system developed both along 15th Avenue NW and the older Ballard Avenue route. The business district in Ballard developed along Market Street as automobiles became more popular. In 1938, the Seattle Board of Public Works decided to dismantle the Seattle streetcar system. The last trolley car was dismantled in 1941.¹³

As Seattle switched to rubber-tired vehicles, 15th Avenue NW became an automobile thoroughfare, a strip development with businesses targeted to automobile transportation. In 1950 there were at least three gas and oil stations on the block between NW Market Street and NW 56th Avenue.¹⁴ 1st Avenue is now the western boundary of the West Woodland neighborhood.

⁶ Walt Crowley, “Seattle Neighborhoods: Ballard—Thumbnail History,” HistoryLink.org essay 983, posted March 31, 1999. http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=983 (accessed September 2007).

⁷ Crowley, “Seattle Neighborhoods: Ballard.”

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Leslie Blanchard, *The Street Railway Era in Seattle: A Chronicle of Six Decades*, Map Addenda. (Forty Fort, PA: Harold E. Cox, 1968).

¹⁰ Clarence Bagley, *The History of King County, Washington* (Seattle, WA: S. J. Clarke, 1926), p. 517. Clarence B. Bagley, *The History of Seattle: From the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (Seattle, WA: S. J. Clarke, 1916), p. 441.

¹¹ Bagley, *The History of Seattle*, p. 442.

¹² Blanchard, pp. 131-132.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Sanborn Insurance Company Maps: 1904-1905 vol. 4, sheets 398 & 406; 1905-1950 vol. 5 1917, sheet 567; 1905-1951 vol. 5 1950, sheet 567.

After World War II, air particulate pollution from the lumber mills, known as “Ballard Snow,” spurred a community outcry. Also, the postwar economy could no longer support the mills and one by one these were shut down. The lumber mills were replaced with other “cleaner” industries, such as manufacturing and fabricating mills, and paint and plastics companies.

During the 1960s and 1970s, business at retail shops along Market Street was harmed by outside competition such as Northgate Mall. By 1976 a plan to revitalize downtown Ballard and Market Street—called the “Market Street Plan” and spearheaded by the Ballard Business & Community Development Corporation—was in place. In 1975 King Olav V of Norway traveled to Ballard to dedicate Bergen Park at the intersection of 23rd Avenue NW and Market Street. The following year, King Carl XVI of Sweden dedicated the old Ballard City Hall bell, which event signified the creation of the Ballard Historic District along Ballard Avenue.

In 1944 almost one quarter of the population of Ballard was foreign-born, and of those about half were Norwegian.¹⁵ Today the population in Ballard is no longer heavily Scandinavian, and many of the Scandinavian shops and services have disappeared from the neighborhood, although it retains its Scandinavian heritage in many ways, including the Nordic Heritage Museum, which opened in 1980 at the former Webster Elementary School, and moved to a large new building at the western end of Market Street in 2018.

Ballard continues to be the center of a combination of manufacturing, commercial fishing industries and recreational boating. Ballard’s commercial district both along Ballard Avenue and Market Street has flourished with shops, restaurants and music venues since the 1980s. The Shilshole breakwater was completed by 1981, bringing business to the area between the Locks and Golden Gardens park. Increased demand for housing in Ballard in the 1980s sparked development of multifamily housing. During this time, the financial services industry relating to fishing and maritime industries grew significantly.¹⁶ The Elliot Bay Marina was completed in 1991, further increasing opportunities for recreational boating in Ballard.

Phinney Ridge Neighborhood¹⁷

The West Woodland neighborhood area is also considered part of Seattle’s Phinney Ridge Neighborhood.

The Phinney neighborhood was named after early homesteader and developer Guy Phinney, an immigrant from Nova Scotia and one-time mining prospector.¹⁸ Upon arriving in Seattle in 1881, Phinney set up a real estate business and purchased acreage west of Green Lake for his own use. Known as the Woodlands Estate, this land would later become Woodland Park and Woodland Park Zoo.¹⁹ Today the Woodland Park Zoo is also a major attraction for visitors to the neighborhood.

The Green Lake neighborhood developed as a suburb of Seattle in the 1890s with the establishment of rail lines that accessed the area from Fremont and Wallingford. Green Lake’s accessibility and sylvan charm made it a draw for the public, both to live in and to visit.²⁰ By contrast, the neighborhood up the hill to the west remained remote and sparsely populated. In an effort to entice residents to the neighborhood, Guy Phinney established a private trolley line running between Fremont and the entrance to the Woodlands Estate. The line operated until 1897.

Guy Phinney passed away in 1893. After his death, his widow Nellie Wright Phinney sold the 200-acre

¹⁵ Calvin F. Schmid, *Social Trends in Seattle*. (Seattle, WA: The University of Washington Press, 1944), p. 102, 106.

¹⁶ Dwight Hawley Jr., *Passport to Ballard*, 1988, p. 293.

¹⁷ This text is excerpted from the “Appendix A” report for the Kort Haus Tavern/6726 Greenwood Avenue N, The Johnson Partnership, May 2015.

¹⁸ *Seattle Times*, “Early-Day Mansions: No. 25—Guy C. Phinney,” February 18, 1945, p. 30

¹⁹ Louis Fiset, “Seattle Neighborhoods: Phinney—Thumbnail History,” HistoryLink Essay 3526, August 29, 2001.

www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=3526 (accessed May 20, 2015).

²⁰ Larry Johnson, “Daniel Bagley School—Landmark Nomination Report,” The Johnson Partnership, December 2014, pp. 7-8.

tract of parkland to the city. The city expanded what had been the Phinney family's private menagerie and in 1904 opened the Woodland Park Zoological Gardens.

In 1906 the Phinney Avenue streetcar line began running from Fremont to N 50th street; a year later the line was extended to N 68th Street. In 1910 the Seattle-Everett Interurban rail line was routed down Greenwood and Phinney Avenues, making the neighborhood accessible from both downtown Seattle and points north.²¹ The neighborhood grew up around the north-south arterial of Phinney and Greenwood Avenues, and to this day remains the commercial heart of the neighborhood.²²

Since 1981, the former John B. Allen School Building (City of Seattle Landmark) has been the home of the Phinney Neighborhood Center. The neighborhood center was started with a federal block grant, and today generates income from renting space in the building, membership fees, and fundraising.²³

West Woodland Neighborhood History & Demographics

In 1853, 26-year-old John Ross established the community of Ross at what would become the southern end of the West Woodland neighborhood. The Ross community spanned "the Outlet," a creek that drained Lake Union into Shilshole Bay. Ross was established in what is now both sides of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, comprising north Queen Anne, Fremont, and the southern end of West Woodland. The name Ross was also given to a railway stop and a school.²⁴

In 1889 Danish immigrant Rasmus Peter Jensen established a homestead claim on what is now the center of the West Woodland neighborhood, at the corner of Seventh Avenue NW and NW 60th street. Originally called the "West of Woodland Park District," the area was annexed into the city of Seattle in 1891, 16 years before the annexation of Ballard.²⁵

The geographic boundaries of West Woodland, as defined by the Seattle City Clerk, reach east-west from Third Avenue NW to 15th Avenue NW and north-south from NW 85th Street to the Ship Canal. West Woodland occupies a little less than one square mile, with a population of 8,730, giving the neighborhood a slightly higher population density than that of Seattle as a whole. The median annual incomes in West Woodland are also higher, exceeding the city's annual median per capita income by more \$12,000 per year.²⁶ The 2010 federal census indicates that West Woodland is a majority white neighborhood, with well over 85% of the population identifying as white. Historically white people have made up between 99% and 100% of the population, as recorded in 1940 and 1960.²⁷ This demographic trend was driven by the de facto segregation that the discriminatory practice of redlining created in the 1930s. Redlining became popular in the 1930s as part of the Federal Housing Authority's home loan guarantee program. The FHA guaranteed loans for private homes in areas that were not considered "hazardous." The hazard rating of an area increased if the area contained any minority or non-white populations, along with other environmental factors such as propensity for landslides. Consequently, banks would not grant mortgages to people of color. In the Commercial Map of Greater Seattle published by Kroll Map Company, Inc. in 1936, three separate areas are listed in the boundaries of today's West Woodland neighborhood.²⁸ Noted on the map as Area C2, this location was listed as "Definitely declining," and extended along the western and southern slopes leading down to the Ship Canal and the Salmon Bay Waterway, and encompassed not only the southern end of West Woodland but also portions of Fremont and southeastern Ballard.

²¹ Fiset, Seattle Neighborhoods: Phinney."

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Valarie Bunn, "Seattle Pioneers of Fremont: John Ross," Wedgwood in Seattle History, February 8, 2016, <https://wedgwoodinseattlehistory.com/2016/02/08/seattles-pioneers-of-fremont-john-ross/> (accessed February 2019).

²⁵ Vintage West Woodland, "Our Story," <https://vintagewestwoodland.wordpress.com/find-us/> (accessed February 2019).

²⁶ Area: 0.839 square miles; Population: 8,730; Population density: West Woodland: 10,401 people per square mile Seattle: 8,398 people per square mile; Median household income in 2016: West Woodland: \$95,334 Seattle: \$83,476. <http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/West-Woodland-Seattle-WA.html>.

²⁷ Civil Rights & Labor History Consortium, "Interactive Map of Race Seattle/King County 1940-2010," University of Washington, <http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/maps-race-seattle.shtml> (accessed February 2019).

²⁸ <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=14/47.5328/-122.3834&opacity=0.8&city=seattle-wa>

The map notes indicated that:

This is an old district with a mixture of a large percentage old homes and of a few new homes. The topography of the western portion of area is flat. The south eastern portion of the area is located on a steep sidehill and the accessibility is not favorable. This district lacks adequate sub-center business facilities.²⁹

The northern areas of West Woodland contained both areas B2 and B1 on the redlining map. These areas stretched from western Ballard to what is now known as the Roosevelt district. These areas were described thus:

Area B2: This locality is known as "Phinney Ridge", "Winona Park", "Green Lake" and "Roosevelt". The population is made up of white people who are employed as white-collar workers, skilled mechanics or small business men. The residences are generally of good architecture and from 10 to 25 years old --- in from fair to good condition. The homes range from \$2000 to \$5000 in value; and are from fair to well maintained.³⁰

Area B1: This district is known as the "Ballard" neighborhood. Homes range in value from \$1500 to \$4000. The locality is populated by working men, skilled mechanics, and white-collar workers. This is the "Scandinavian" section of Seattle. This area is densely populated. The homes are from 10 to 25 years old and in from fair to good condition.³¹

The West Woodland neighborhood contains buildings of a range of ages. Although the official neighborhood boundaries don't contain any designated City of Seattle Landmarks, around 33 percent of the houses in the West Woodland neighborhood were constructed before 1939. 23% of residences were constructed after the year 2000. The least-represented decades of construction in West Woodland are the 1950s and 1960s. Besides the West Woodland School, Ballard High School is technically within the boundaries of the West Woodland neighborhood. The only park within the boundaries is the Ross playground at NW 43rd Street and Third Avenue NW. The neighborhood is mostly zoned for single-family residences, with areas of commercial zoning along 15th Avenue NW, NW 65th Street, NW 85th Street, and at the corner of NW 70th Street and Eighth Avenue NW. Areas adjacent to the Lake Washington Ship Canal and the Salmon Bay waterway are zoned for industrial uses. ***See figures 77-85.***

Nearby City of Seattle Landmarks include:

- The John B. Allen School, now the Phinney Neighborhood Center (in the center of the Phinney Ridge neighborhood, 6532 Phinney Avenue N)
- The New Age Christian Church (Ballard, 1763 NW 62nd Street)
- Loyal Heights Elementary School (north Ballard/Loyal Heights, 2501 NW 80th Street)
- Daniel Bagley Elementary School (Green Lake, 7821 Stone Ave N)
- The Drake House (Ballard, 6414 22nd Ave NW)
- The Greenwood Jewelers Street Clock (Greenwood, 129 N 85th Street)
- Fitch/Nutt House (Fremont, 4401 Phinney Ave N)
- The Louisa Building (Ballard, 5220 20th Ave NW)
- Old Fire Station #18 (Ballard, 5427 Russell Ave NW)
- Ballard Carnegie Library (Ballard, 2026 NW Market Street)

²⁹ Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., "Mapping Inequality," American Panorama, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers (accessed February 2019)

<https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=13/47.6680/-122.3735&opacity=0.8&area=C2&city=seattle-wa>.

³⁰ Ibid., <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=13/47.6821/-122.3371&opacity=0.8&city=seattle-wa&area=B2>.

³¹ Ibid., <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=13/47.6830/-122.3811&opacity=0.8&city=seattle-wa&area=B1>.

4.2 School Development in Northwest Seattle³²

Fremont, Phinney, Greenwood and Green Lake Schools

B. F. Day Elementary (City of Seattle Landmark), one and a half miles south of the subject building in the Fremont neighborhood, was established in 1891, and is considered the longest continually-operating school in Seattle. The original school was an eight-room brick by John Parkinson, and was expanded in 1901 with an addition by Edgar Blair.

In 1901 the Seattle School District built the Green Lake School, designed by district architect James Stephen, on the eastern side of the lake. This was the closest public school for children living in the Phinney neighborhood until 1902, when the Park School opened on Phinney Avenue N and N 66th Street, just north of Woodland Park. In its first year, the school served 99 students in several portable buildings. Increasing enrollment led the school district to build a permanent school on the same site, dubbed the John B. Allen School (City of Seattle Landmark). Also designed by Stephen, John B. Allen opened in 1904 and at the end of its first year open had 278 students. By 1918 enrollment had swelled to 473, and 15 years later, in 1933, enrollment was 758. Allen operated as a school until 1981. The building is now known as the Phinney Neighborhood Center, and houses the Phinney Neighborhood Association.

In 1905 an annex to the Allen School was established to the north of Green Lake, at what is now Stone Way and N 79th Street. A permanent building opened on the site in 1907, with the name Daniel Bagley School (City of Seattle Landmark), which offered grades one through eight. By 1919 Bagley received one of five "Liberty Buildings" in the district to accommodate its student body. In 1930 a new Bagley school building opened, designed by Floyd Naramore (City of Seattle Landmark).

In 1909 the Greenwood school opened at 144 N 180th Street, a three-story, nine-room school designed by James Stephen. In its first year, Greenwood had 144 students in grades one through seven. By the 1918 school year, enrollment had increased eightfold, reaching 655. Floyd Naramore designed an addition to the school, built in 1921.

In 1914 the school district opened a school to serve the Green Lake and Latona neighborhoods, named F. A. McDonald.

In 1927 John Marshall Intermediate (middle) School opened at 520 NE Ravenna Boulevard, at the eastern edge of the Green Lake neighborhood. The school took in students from Green Lake, McDonald, University Heights, and Fairview. In 1942 Marshall became the home of a program for hearing-impaired students. Additional special education classes for students with physical or mental limitations were added in 1967. The school ceased to be a middle school in 1971, and for decades operated as an alternative school, whose programs included the Indian Heritage High School, People's School No. 1, a re-entry program for suspended students, a program for pregnant girls and young mothers (which included on-site daycare), vocational training, and a GED program.

Currently operating in the Phinney/Greenwood and Green Lake neighborhoods are the following elementary schools: Greenwood, Bagley (City of Seattle Landmark), Green Lake, McDonald. Marshall is the interim site for Queen Anne High School.

Ballard Schools³³

The first school in Ballard was a two-room schoolhouse built in 1883 by John and Mary Jane Ross, near present day NW 43rd Street and Third Avenue NW (Ross Playground).³⁴ The Ballard School District was formed around 1886, with the acquisition and repair of the former John and Anna Brygger cabin, at the

³² ³² All research for this portion is drawn from *Building for Learning*.

³³ Research for this portion is drawn from *Building for Learning*, unless otherwise noted.

³⁴ Julie D. Pheasant-Albright, *Early Ballard* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), p. 80. Margaret I. Wandrey, *Four Bridges to Seattle, Old Ballard, 1853-1907* (Seattle, WA: Ballard Printing & Publishing, 1975), p. 127.

settlement's western end (presently Market Street and 24th Avenue NW) that was simply called the Ballard School.³⁵ A third school building, named the Central School (John Parkinson, renamed Ballard School in 1909, renamed Washington Irving School in 1916, demolished) was constructed in 1891, on what is now the Swedish Medical Center campus (5308 Tallman Avenue).³⁶ Around 1889, after the original Brygger cabin was destroyed by fire, the new replacement schoolhouse was called the Broadway School (later Market Street School, demolished).³⁷ At some point before 1907, the Broadway School building was enlarged to four classrooms.

The district constructed a fourth school in 1901, the Salmon Bay School (a.k.a. Polk Street School, demolished ca. 1945), at 20th Avenue NW and NW 85th Street.³⁸ The old Ross School was replaced in 1903 by a wood-framed eight-room school building (demolished 1941).³⁹ Also in 1903, the district rented a building for use as a school, the Cleck School, at 22nd Avenue NW and NW 57th Street.⁴⁰ The two-story wood-framed Eastside School (I. J. Bird, later Washington Irving, closed 1932, demolished) was opened in 1902, at what is now 14th Avenue NW and NW 52nd Street.⁴¹

In 1904 the district built a small wood-frame building, the Baker Street School, at what is now Seventh Avenue NW and NW 60th Street, but either sold or demolished the building in 1905.⁴²

The original Bay View School (now Webster School, City of Seattle Landmark) and the Ferry Street School (demolished 1908), were both constructed around 1904, each consisting of a pair of adjacent small wood-framed buildings. The Bay View site was on the southern side of what is now NW 68th Street and 30th Avenue NW. The Ferry Street School was on the western side of what is now 25th Avenue NW and between NW 67th Street and NW 70th Street. Two additional buildings were added to the Bay View School in 1905.

The North Street School, a two-story wood-framed storefront building, opened around 1905, at what is now the southwestern corner of 64th Avenue NW and NW 22nd Street.⁴³

The district opened the Parish School (demolished), located at what is now the northwestern corner of 20th Avenue NW and NW 85th Street, as an annex to the Salmon Bay School, in 1906.⁴⁴

While voters of the rapidly expanding town of Ballard were contemplating annexation in 1906, the district engaged two architects, Newton C. Gauntt and Fredrick A. Sexton, to design two two-story stone-and-brick school buildings. Gauntt's Rainier School (7501 13th Avenue NW, demolished 1998), replaced what was known as the North End School, opening as Whittier School, and Sexton's Olympic School (3014 NW 67th Street, opened as Bay View School, altered) replaced the two wood-frame buildings on the site. Both were completed in 1908, under the direction of the Seattle School District Number 1, after the town of Ballard was annexed into the City of Seattle.⁴⁵

When the town of Ballard was formerly annexed to the City of Seattle on May 29, 1907, all physical assets and obligations of the Ballard School Board were transferred to Seattle School District Number 1. At that time assets of the Ballard School Board were considered inadequate to operate the former Ballard School building during the coming school year.⁴⁶

After this transition, in 1909 the district closed the Broadway School and renamed Central School "Ballard High School" and pledged to establish a new high school with its own building. The site for the

³⁵ Pheasant-Albright, p. 79.

³⁶ Thompson & Marr, p. 17.

³⁷ Wandrey, p. 127. Pheasant-Albright, p. 80.

³⁸ Thompson & Marr, p. 269.

³⁹ Thompson & Marr, p. 264.

⁴⁰ Thompson & Marr, p. 1.

⁴¹ Pheasant-Albright, p. 85. Thompson & Marr, p. 150.

⁴² Pheasant-Albright, p. 82.

⁴³ Pheasant-Albright, p. 81.

⁴⁴ Thompson & Marr, p. 269.

⁴⁵ Pheasant-Albright, p. 91. Thompson & Marr, pp. 30, 319. Wandrey, p. 137.

⁴⁶ *Seattle Times*, "Ballard Schools Bring Load Of Debt," June 15, 1907, p. 7.

new school was acquired in 1911, and district architect Edgar Blair designed the new high school building in an American Renaissance style. The new Ballard High School opened in 1916 with approximately 650 incoming students. Meanwhile, the former Central School became Washington Irving Elementary.

The North End School was closed in 1908. A replacement two-story, 12-room school by Newton Gauntt opened later that year at 7501 13th Avenue NW, called Whittier.

Adams School opened in 1909 as a replacement for, and several blocks north of, the Broadway School. The Jacobean-style school was designed by James Stephen according to his "model school" plan. In its first school year, Adams had 500 students and 13 teachers teaching grades one through eight.

In 1919 Loyal Heights School (City of Seattle Landmark), located at what is now NW 77th Street and NW 26th Avenue, opened as an annex to relieve overcrowding at Webster. There were no roads yet to this portion of Ballard, and students walked through woods and uncleared brush to get to school. From its opening until 1928 the all-portables school offered grades one through three. In 1932 the school received a permanent building, a ten-room Georgian Revival-style school by district architect Floyd Naramore.

By the early 1920s, Ballard High's student body exceeded its 1,000-person capacity, necessitating a dozen portable buildings and, in 1925, a significant addition. By 1938 the school's enrollment had topped 2,000, and additional portables were installed. In the 1957-1958 school year the school underwent a major addition and remodel, and by 1964 the school had 2,532 students and 101 teachers. Enrollment declined in the 1970s, but saw an uptick in the early 1980s after Queen Anne (City of Seattle Landmark) and Lincoln (City of Seattle Landmark) high schools closed. In 1997 Ballard High was closed and demolished. The school was housed at the former Lincoln site while the new building was under construction. The new Ballard High School opened in 1999.

In 1958, two new schools opened in the northern portion of Ballard, both on the site of the former Olympic Golf Course. The US Army had commandeered the golf course land in 1950 to use as an anti-aircraft gun emplacement, but sold to the school district in the early 1950s. Whitman Middle School (9201 15th Avenue NW) opened in on the eastern portion of the former golf course, essentially at the convergence of the Crown Hill, North Beach, and Blue Ridge neighborhoods. Whitman opened with 1,400 students, and within two years was seriously overcrowded. North Beach School (9018 24th Avenue NW) was built on the western portion of the golf course site, and opened with 446 pupils who had previously been attending the overcrowded Crown Hill and Loyal Heights schools.

Schools currently operating in Ballard are Ballard High School, Whitman Middle School, and the following elementary schools: Salmon Bay, Adams, Loyal Heights (City of Seattle Landmark), Whittier, North Beach, and Viewlands (10525 Third Avenue NW). Webster School (City of Seattle Landmark), is currently under construction, with plans to reopen in time for the 2020-21 school year.

4.3 Building History: Site & Original School, 5634 Fifth Avenue NW

In the early 1900s, Ballard's rapid growth led to an urgent need for schools.⁴⁷ In 1905, the Seattle School board established an annex to Ross School (located south of the subject building at Third Avenue NW and NW 42nd Street) to house the student overflow. The annex, a small wood-frame portable, was located on the east side of Fourth Avenue North, at the intersection with West Fifty-sixth street. Mrs. Mary K Reeves taught first and second graders at this school; older students attended one of five other schools in the vicinity, including the Irving School in Ballard, the Allen School on Phinney Ridge, and B.F. Day in Fremont, and Whittier in Ballard.⁴⁸ Students

⁴⁷ Mrs. E. J. O'Keefe, "The History of West Woodland Elementary School," report for the Seattle Public Schools, n.d.

⁴⁸ Patricia C. Erigerio, consultant for Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, "West Woodland Elementary School – 5634 5th Avenue Northwest," Seattle Historic Building Survey, Seattle Public Schools, 1989, p. 201.

from the neighborhood faced a challenge getting to their various schools; streams caused swampy conditions, and boards were laid across muddy areas to create passable walkways.⁴⁹

On May 29, 1907 Ballard was annexed to Seattle and in June 1907 the Ross School became part of the Seattle School System. In 1908 the Seattle School Board purchased land from Mr. E. James Brower, a settler on the western side of Phinney Ridge with an extensive garden and asparagus fields.⁵⁰ In 1908 the Ross Annex portable building was moved to the new site, at Fourth Avenue NW and NW 56th Street. In 1910 the site got a permanent school building, designed by district architect Edgar Blair, and a new name, West Woodland.⁵¹ The construction of the nine-classroom Jacobean-style school by the firm of Lance & Peters cost approximately \$44,000.^{52,53} “Mrs. Cora Gillette, one of the first teachers in the new building, recalled that most of the teachers came to the school on the Phinney Car, and walked along a sandy path—in season bordered by lupine and wild roses—down the hill through the woods to the new school.”⁵⁴ The new school opened in January 1910. The first principal was a Mr. Collins, who was quickly replaced by Mr. Ray T. Smith, who remained at West Woodland for more than thirty years.⁵⁵

As was often the case with new schools in rapidly-growing Seattle, West Woodland became overcrowded almost immediately after opening. With some classes having more than forty students, some students were asked to transfer to other area schools.⁵⁶ In 1912, the school district purchased six adjoining lots to enlarge the site. The following year, eight more classrooms, a meeting room, and a manual training room were added to the north side. In spite of this expansion, portable buildings were soon added to the site.⁵⁷

In 1914, the West Woodland school and the Parent-Teacher Association began holding exhibitions of home garden work. The competition included exhibits of “ninety-seven flowers, 213 vegetables, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, cherries [...] and a menagerie of twenty-seven pets.”⁵⁸ The competition awarded \$15 in cash prizes.

In February of 1917, five hundred students from West Woodland School were sent home and the school was closed by the Health Department due to the sudden death of nine-year-old Vola Jones from polio.⁵⁹ Although the closure of the West Woodland school was noted as “indefinite,” the school appears to have been open and operational by September of the same year.⁶⁰ In 1918, the school was a designated location for registering pledges for War Savings Stamps and for the meetings of local “Minute Men,” a volunteer organization dedicated to “spying on [...] friends, neighbors and co-workers and reporting any un-American conduct,” for

⁴⁹ Nile Thompson and Carolyn J. Marr, “West Woodland,” *Building for Learning: Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000* (Seattle: Seattle Public Schools, 2002).

⁵⁰ Erigero, p. 202.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 196.

⁵² *Seattle Republican*, “City News,” February 11, 1910, p. 4. With inflation, the equivalent amount would equal approximately \$1,118,720.00

⁵³ *Seattle Times*, “Manufacturers Believe School Board Unfair,” July 15, 1910, p. 6.

⁵⁴ Seattle Public Schools, “History of West Woodland Elementary School 1910 –,” February 17, 1988.

⁵⁵ *Seattle Times*, “West Woodland School,” August 25, 1912, p. 13.

⁵⁶ O’Keefe.

⁵⁷ Thompson & Marr, “West Woodland.”

⁵⁸ *Seattle Times*, “Garden Exhibit at West Woodland,” June 14, 1914, p. 51.

⁵⁹ *Seattle Star*, “Paralysis Case Closes School,” February 13, 1917, p. 8.

⁶⁰ *Seattle Star*, “Star Readers Provide Tobacco for 10400 Soldiers; Much More Needed; Send in Your Donation,” September 24, 1917, p. 10.

fear of a German invasion during World War I.^{61,62,63} In February of 1919, an altercation on school grounds between four students and principal Ray Smith resulted in the students being charged with “abusing a teacher.”⁶⁴ Mr. Smith was later sued for damages, the allegations stating Smith struck student Jonas Holmes and loosened four front teeth.⁶⁵

In the 1920s, the school continued to host various lectures, community concerts, and meetings of various groups, including the West Woodland Improvement Club.^{66,67} By 1925, the Department of Education School Board recognized the physical school buildings were not keeping up with the rapid growth of the student population. Citywide, more 5,000 students were attending school in portables and other temporary buildings. As part of a \$2,150,000 bond issued in 1925 by the school building program (equal to nearly \$31 million in 2019), an addition was scheduled to be constructed to the West Woodland Elementary school.⁶⁸ In 1925, “a three story, hipped roof wing was added to the south end of the building, which an axis perpendicular to the 1910 axis, echoing the form of the 1913 north wing” by district architect Floyd Naramore.⁶⁹ That same year the following additions were added to West Woodland: seven classrooms, a kindergarten room, two play courts, and a lunchroom-cum-meeting room. This brought the total student capacity to 1000 and eliminated six temporary classrooms.

In 1931, Principal Ray Smith was charged with assault against 14-year-old James Selley, although charges were later dropped.⁷⁰

During World War II a "nursery building" was added at the southeastern corner of the grounds to accommodate preschool-age children of mothers working in war industries."⁷¹

In 1947, 11-year-old students Donald Dreger and Chester Stores made the news as “youthful inventors” who aided classmates with a battery-powered propeller that could twist crepe paper, thus saving the sore fingers of fellow students.⁷² That same year West Woodland students participated in baseball events, including at the Ross Playfield Old Ossie Championship and Gilman Playfield.⁷³ Participating students continued to make news on the field in 1948, when 12-year-old Jimmy Trumbull was named playfield champion for his fast ball, and Douglas Nelson scored 27 points by completing nine passes, three punts and two drop-kicks in the Times-Park Board football contest.^{74 75}

In 1958, schoolteacher Evelyn Fleck survived a crash near Minneapolis while flying with Northwest Orient Airlines planes. She was coming to Seattle to begin teaching for her first year at West Woodland.⁷⁶

⁶¹ *Seattle Star*, “Register Your Pledge for War Savings Stamps Tomorrow,” June 27, 1918, p. 8.

⁶² *Seattle Star*, “A Meeting of Minute Men,” April 2, 1918, p. 11.

⁶³ Susan Newsome, “The Seattle Minute Men: Spies, Gossip, and Lies,” Strike: Seattle General Strike Project, University of Washington, <http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/strike/newsome.shtml> (accessed February 2019).

⁶⁴ *Seattle Star*, “Teacher Turning Tables on Unruly Woodland Pupils,” February 12, 1919, p. 2.

⁶⁵ *Seattle Times*, “School Principal Sued for Damages,” February 13, 1919, p. 13.

⁶⁶ *Seattle Star*, “Murphine Talks Tonight,” January 14, 1920, p. 2.

⁶⁷ *Seattle Star*, “Community Sing at West Woodland School,” November 11, 1921, p. 14.

⁶⁸ *Seattle Times*, “Department of Education: Schools are Crowded,” February 13, 1925, p. 19.

⁶⁹ Erigero, 198.

⁷⁰ *Seattle Times*, “Charges Against Teacher Dropped,” July 30, 1931, p. 8.

⁷¹ O’Keefe.

⁷² *Seattle Times*, “Youthful ‘Inventors,’” April 27, 1947, p. 25.

⁷³ *Seattle Times*, “Tension, Spring Fever Afflict Old Woody,” May 12, 1948, p. 17.

⁷⁴ *Seattle Times*, “Perfect Day Aids Woody at Ross Field,” May 15, 1948, p. 3.

⁷⁵ *Seattle Times*, “Sharpshooter at Ross,” September 30, 1948, p. 20.

⁷⁶ *Seattle Times*, “Teacher Here Injured in Air-Liner Crash,” August 28, 1958, p. 16.

1963 saw the school participating in an American and English teacher exchange, accommodating British teacher Jill Baker at the school.⁷⁷ That same year, the second-grade class under Mrs. Ann Pirtle sent a paper mosaic to the Children's Center at the New York World's Fair. The mosaic comprised more than 50,000 pieces of colored paper and required two weeks to finish.⁷⁸ The foreign teacher exchange continued in 1964, with West Woodland teacher Marion Kinderr teaching in Dirby, England.⁷⁹ In 1966, students held a small rally protesting the poor state of their desks. Holding picket signs asking for better desks, the group paraded in view of the principal's office.⁸⁰

In 1972, the Ballard Area Citizens School Advisory Council "approved a facilities report that all older area schools need[ed] renovating and updating."⁸¹ In 1977, the elementary school was among those offering public hearings on desegregation plans throughout Seattle.⁸² In 1979, the Ballard daycare center relocated to West Woodland, as the school had been designed to contain a daycare operation and could accommodate more children than the previous site at Adams Elementary.⁸³

In 1983 superintendent Donald Steele recommended rebuilding West Woodland Elementary School, designating \$4 million to accomplish the task.⁸⁴ At this time the 75-year-old school was described as, "unreinforced brick walls [...] pose[d] a constant seismic question mark. In the attic, out of sight, makeshift bracing shore[d] up crumbling mortar."⁸⁵ In March 1989, the Seattle School Board approved the acquirement of an additional 1.7 acres for a new West Woodland Elementary School building. Construction of the new school was estimated at a cost of \$5.5 million, including \$1.35 million for the site expansion.⁸⁶

In early May 1990, the original brick West Woodland Elementary School was demolished. By September 25, 1990, all traces of the old school had been removed and the site was prepped and ready for construction of the new building. *See figures 86-102.*

4.4 Building History: Contemporary West Woodland Elementary, 5601 Fourth Ave NW

Construction of the subject building, the present-day West Woodland Elementary School, was completed in 1991. During construction of the new school from 1989 to 1991, the Seattle School District used Monroe School on NW 65th Street in Ballard for as an interim school.⁸⁷ The new building opened in 1991. Although the new building is smaller than the original, the adjacent playground area is significantly larger, and includes a grass playfield. The school continued to encourage reading by students with all-day read-ins and puppet shows, and in 1993 issuing the challenge of "books at 20 paces," where students bet they could read more books than students from other participating schools.^{88,89} In 1995, first grade teacher Sandy Henderson was recognized for excellence in teaching. She became well known for inviting community

⁷⁷ *Seattle Times*, "Taxes to Winter Wear: Exchange Teachers Swap Data," June 12, 1963, p. 47.

⁷⁸ *Seattle Times*, "Pupils Send Gift to N.Y. Fair," June 7, 1964, p. 11.

⁷⁹ *Seattle Times*, "Nine Foreign Teachers Here," September 2, 1964, p. 52.

⁸⁰ *Seattle Times*, "A Puny Parade? Pupils Picket Anyway," February 10, 1966, p. 26.

⁸¹ *Seattle Times*, "Ballard council approves report," November 23, 1972, p. 119.

⁸² *Seattle Times*, "Public hearings scheduled on desegregation plans," September 28, 1977, p. 34.

⁸³ *Seattle Times*, "Ballard day-care center to move," August 16, 1979, p. 27.

⁸⁴ *Seattle Times*, "School closures, \$86.3 million in repairs proposed," August 24, 1983, p. 1.

⁸⁵ *Seattle Times*, "Bonds: new life for aging schools," September 9, 1984, p. 42.

⁸⁶ *Seattle Times*, "Additional 1.7 Acres Sought for School," March 3, 1989, p. B3.

⁸⁷ *Seattle Times*, "Mixed Emotions on Spice Move – Senior Program Must Relocate 15 Blocks from its Ballard Site," August 29, 1991, p. F3.

⁸⁸ *Seattle Times*, "Extra Credit," April 20, 1993, p. E6.

⁸⁹ *Seattle Times*, "Extra Credit," November 30, 1993, p. E8.

members into the classroom, including “a 90-year-old man who helps almost every day with reading and spelling.”⁹⁰

In 2005, Marilyn Loveness succeeded Ed James as principal of West Woodland Elementary.⁹¹ This same year saw the start of the “walking school bus,” a sort of pedestrian caravan for students.⁹²

In 2010, West Woodland Elementary celebrated its centennial anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, a time capsule was placed in the concrete-topped bench outside the eastern entrance of the 1991 building.⁹³

In 2015, West Woodland Elementary school acted as the starting point for the Seventh Annual Edible Garden Tour in Ballard, an exploration of more than a dozen local gardens.⁹⁴

During the 2017-2018 school year West Woodland had 30 teachers and 566 students. Of the student body, 72% were white, 6% were Hispanic, 6% were Asian or Pacific Islander, 2% were African American, and 13% were multiracial or unknown. 5% of the students qualified for free or reduced lunch, significantly lower than the districtwide average, and 12% were in special education programs.⁹⁵ *See figures 103-110.*

4.5 Historic Architectural Context: Late Modern & Postmodern School Typology

The design of the West Woodland school may have been influenced by some characteristics of the Postmodern movement. Character-defining features of the school that could be considered Postmodern include the arched “eyebrow” entry roof; pairs of round columns and exposed steel-channel upper lintel; the conscious use of brick cladding; the traditional fenestration combined with the conscious use of non-traditional fenestration, such as corner windows, in certain areas; the use of square and circular plan shapes; traditional hipped roof forms; and the use of bright primary color scheme on painted elements.

Postmodernism evolved as a reaction against the International Modern movement and its lack of decoration, signs, and signifiers in architecture. Modernism, as a style and a movement, originated in Europe after World War I, with an underlying belief that advances in science and technology would generate a new form of architecture, free from the pervasive eclecticism based on revival forms. The possibilities of curtain wall construction utilizing steel frames and the freeform massing using ferro-concrete were explored by continental architects, as well as American modernist pioneers including Frank Lloyd Wright. By the 1920s, these experimentations produced two distinct branches of modern architecture: the steel and glass classicism of the “International Style” of Bauhaus architects Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe, and the Béton Brut style of Charles Edouard Jeanneret (Le Corbusier) and the “New Brutalism.”⁹⁶

During the 1940s and 1950s architectural design in Seattle also went through a radical transformation from its traditional roots to Modernism during the 1940s and 1950s. The progressive enthusiasm of the war years had essentially overtaken Eclecticism, and traditional architects were either retiring or reluctantly adapting to Modernism—first Art Deco and eventually the International style—evolving here into what is now termed Northwest Modernism. This style was used extensively in the many institutional

⁹⁰ *Seattle Times*, “School Staffers Win A+ Awards for Efforts,” May 9, 1995, p. B1.

⁹¹ *Seattle Times*, “7 Seattle schools get new principals,” May 13, 2005, p. B3.

⁹² *Seattle Times*, “‘Walking School Bus’ is on a roll,” October 12, 2010, p. B1.

⁹³ Marty Phelps, administrative assistant, West Woodland Elementary, in conversation with Audrey Reda, the Johnson Partnership, February 2019.

⁹⁴ *Seattle Times*, “Golden Full moon maple is a great choice,” June 20, 2015, p. B3.

⁹⁵ Seattle Public Schools, “West Woodland Elementary, School Report for 2017-2018 School Year,” https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/REA/school_reports/current/WestWoodland.PDF (accessed February 2019).

⁹⁶ R. Furneaux Jordan, *A Concise History of Western Architecture* (Norwich, G.B.: Jarrold and Sons, 1969), p. 320.

buildings built to accommodate an expanding post-war population in Seattle and the nearby suburbs.

In the mid 1960s, architects began to push back against the strictures of the Modern movement. In 1966 Robert Venturi wrote *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, decrying the Modernist idea of purity in architecture, and in 1972 he and Denise Scott Brown wrote *Learning From Las Vegas*, in which he described architecture as either a “decorated shed” with applied ornament, or a “duck,” in which the form of the building is itself a symbol. Architect and theorist Charles Jencks described the Postmodern style in a 1975 essay “The Rise of Postmodern Architecture,” and a subsequent 1977 book, *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture*.

At the same time, postwar suburbanization had become an entrenched way of life, and rapid suburban development meant that many architects were looking for economical solutions and maximum profitability for large-scale commercial and institutional buildings. With the entrenched values for lack of ornamentation and functionality left over from the Modern movement, along with shedding ideas of purity and honesty of the Modernists, architects designed functional buildings to serve new program types and began to add ornamentation that included stripped-down formal symbols of past styles.

Robert Venturi is considered the father of the Postmodern style, and his designs for the Guild House (1963) and the Vanna Venturi house (1964), both in Philadelphia, defined the style from its inception. Charles Moore was also a proponent of the style, designing the 1978 Piazza d'Italia in New Orleans, in what would have been, at the time, a radical statement of traditional western iconography. By 1982, the style was entrenched in the architectural profession, and Philip Johnson designed the AT&T Building in New York—its broken pediment top a definitive statement that Postmodernism had overtaken International Modernism at every level of the architecture profession. Also in 1982, Michael Graves designed the Portland Building in Portland, OR; using paint and applied ornamentation to suggest classical detailing, the Portland Building was one of the first buildings to apply a Postmodern style to a large civic building.⁹⁷ The most famous Postmodern architects were Robert Venturi, Robert Stern, Charles Moore, Michael Graves, Leon Krier, and James Stirling. The term “starchitect” wasn’t coined until 1986, but came to define Graves’ career and his reliance on the Postmodern style. Graves’ 2006 St. Coletta School in Washington D.C. is one of the best examples of the Postmodern style applied to an elementary school.

Most Postmodern architects use contemporary materials and detailing to signify traditional forms for economic reasons, such as using stone panels in curtain wall construction. Because the style has been indiscriminately applied to commercial architecture, the style has been maligned in recent years as a type of “sham architecture,” with the signifiers more and more divorced from their meanings.

Seattle has several good examples of the Postmodern style, along with many examples of the style applied in a vernacular way. The Seattle Art Museum (1991) by Venturi Scott Brown is one of the best examples of the style. On a large scale both the WaMu Tower (Kohn Peterson Fox, 1988) and the US Bank Center (Callison, 1987) insert postmodern shaped tops into the Seattle skyline. On a smaller scale, several community centers in Seattle use the postmodern style effectively. These include the Ravenna Eckstein Community Center (ARC, 1986), The Delridge Community Center (BOLA, 1992), and the Rainier Community Center (Michael Canatsey Associates, 1996).

Postmodern-style schools in Seattle are as follows: West Woodland (1991, Olson Sundberg Architects), Olympic View Elementary (1989, Eric Meng Associates), Whitworth Elementary (1989, WMFL Architects and Engineers), The African American Academy (1990, Streeter & Associates), J. M. Colman Elementary/Thurgood Marshall Elementary (1991, Mahlum & Nordfors), the Frank B. Cooper School/Pathfinder (1999, Tsang Partnership), Ballard High School (1999, Mahlum & Nordfors McKinley Gordon), Highland Park Elementary (1999, Burr Lawrence Rising + Bates), Whittier Elementary (1999, DLR/John Graham & Associates).

⁹⁷ Patrick Lynch, “Façade of Michael Graves’ Postmodernist Portland Building Dismantled in Preparation for Recladding,” ArchDaily, March 9, 2018, <https://www.archdaily.com/890490/michael-graves-postmodernist-portland-building-facade-dismantled-in-preparation-for-recladding> (accessed February 2019).

Schools with significant postmodern additions include Leschi (1988, Church/Suzuki) and John Muir Elementary (1991, Streeter/Dermanis Associates). *See figures 111-126.*

4.6 Building Owner: Seattle School District No. 1: History, General Historical and Building Context⁹⁸

Early Development of Seattle Area Schools

The first school in Seattle was established in 1854 in Bachelors' Hall, a boarding house for single men located near present-day First Avenue and Cherry Street. The sole teacher was Catharine P. Blaine, who arrived in Seattle in 1853 with her Episcopalian minister husband. An initial three-person school board was created around 1861, and in 1862, the first public funds were used to pay a teacher a salary for the twenty-three children attending school then held in the new Territorial University Building on Denny's Knoll, located at University Street and Fourth Avenue. Until 1866, when tuition-free classes were established, public funds were exclusively earmarked for teacher salaries. In 1869, Seattle received a city charter from the territorial legislature, and residents approved a funding levy to build the city's first free public-school building, Central School, near Third Avenue and Marion Street. The school opened in 1870 with 120 students and the city's first public school teacher, Lizzie Ordway. Other tax levies were later approved to construct a few smaller schoolhouses of one or two rooms scattered throughout the town.⁹⁹

In 1877, the legislature established the Territorial Board of Education, and by 1881, it had granted appointments of school superintendents in incorporated cities. Subsequently, Edward Ingraham was named the first superintendent of the Seattle School District in 1882.¹⁰⁰

In 1883, a new twelve-room Central School (1883, Isaac A. Palmer, a.k.a. the Sixth Street School, demolished) located at Sixth Avenue and Marion Street opened, offering Seattle's first high school classes. The following year, the twelve-room Denny School (1884, Stephen J. Meany, demolished) at Fifth Avenue and Battery Street opened for elementary students. The district's first high school commencement was held in 1886, for twelve graduates.¹⁰¹ *See figures 127.*

Student enrollment in the district expanded more than fourfold from 1,500 students in 1885 to nearly 6,650 in 1893, with many students attending classes held in rented rooms. Acute overcrowding, exacerbated by the loss of Central School to a fire in 1888, resulted in a major school construction program. Eight school buildings were built between 1889 and 1890. The city's third Central School (1889, demolished 1953), replaced its destroyed predecessor, and the South School (1889, demolished 1909), located at Twelfth Avenue S and S Weller Street, were Seattle's first brick masonry schools, both designed by the architectural firm of Boone & Meeker.¹⁰²

The district's third superintendent, Frank J. Barnard, was hired in 1890, replacing Julia Kennedy, who had replaced Ingraham in 1888. Barnard oversaw the construction of fifteen schools the district completed between 1891 and 1900. Three were wood-frame school buildings with identical plans designed by the architectural firm of Saunders & Houghton, as well as four schools designed by John Parkinson based on programs developed by Barnard.¹⁰³

District schools completed between 1890 and 1899 include: *See figure 128.*

⁹⁸ Prepared by Larry E. Johnson, AIA, principal of the Johnson Partnership, May 2013. Additional input was received from Susan Boyle, AIA, of BOLA Architecture + Planning. Note: This general historical survey does not provide a comprehensive list of every school built or operated by Seattle Public Schools from the district's founding in 1882 to the present day.

⁹⁹ Paul Hoerlein, "Introduction," *Building for Learning, Seattle Public School Histories, 1862-2000*, Nile Thompson and Carolyn J. Marr (Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, 2002), p. x.

¹⁰⁰ William Gregory Robinson, "A History of Public School Architecture in Seattle," unpublished Master's thesis, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1989, p. 33.

¹⁰¹ Erigero, pp. 3-5. Hoerlein, p. x.

¹⁰² Hoerlein, p. x.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Mercer School	1890	Fourth Ave N and Valley St	Saunders & Houghton	Demolished 1948
T.T. Minor School	1890	1700 E Union St	Saunders & Houghton	Demolished 1940
Queen Anne School	1890	W Galer and Fifth Ave W	Charles W. Saunders	Demolished 1895
Randall School	1890	E Union and 33 rd Ave	n.a.	Sold and moved 1906
Rainier School	1890	23 rd Ave S and King St	Saunders & Houghton	Demolished 1957
Olympic School	1891	Norman St and 26 th Ave S	Walter Smedley	Demolished 1937
B.F. Day School	1892	3921 Linden Ave N	John Parkinson	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Latona School	1892	Fifth Ave NE and N 42 nd St	n.a.	Demolished 1932
Green Lake School	1892	N 65 th and Sunnyside Ave	John Parkinson	Demolished 1928
Cascade School	1893	Pontius St and E Thomas St	John Parkinson	Demolished 1955
Pacific School	1893	1114 E Jefferson St	John Parkinson	Demolished 1977
Seward School	1895	Franklin St and Louisa St	Chamberlin & Siebrand	A.k.a. Denny-Fuhrman, altered
West Queen Anne School	1895	515 W Galer St	Skillings & Corner	Long-term site lease, redeveloped as condominiums in 1983
Beacon Hill School	1899	16 th St S and S Lander St	n.a.	Destroyed by fire 1988
Lake School	1899	38 th Ave E and E Garfield St	W.E. Boone	Demolished 1927

The financial panic of 1893 slowed the development of new schools, but Seattle prospered during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897.¹⁰⁴ In the aftermath of the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, local designers and builders focused on fireproof masonry as a primary building material, looking to post-fire Chicago and its brick masonry buildings for inspiration.¹⁰⁵

Early 20th Century Seattle Schools and James Stephen

Frank B. Cooper was hired as superintendent in 1901. During his twenty-one-year tenure, he led the Seattle School District's transformation into a major urban school system. Cooper encouraged this development by establishing many specialized programs, including kindergartens, parental schools, and classes for adults in evening schools, as well as those for special-needs students. Cooper and the school board planned for smaller neighborhood elementary schools and comprehensive high schools.¹⁰⁶

James Stephen became the school architect and director of construction in 1901, developing a "model school plan" for standard wood-frame elementary schools. This plan was used as a basis for several elementary schools designed for the district, partially offsetting a short-term financial shortfall. These

¹⁰⁴ Erigero, p. 8.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., pp. 4, 96.

¹⁰⁶ Hoerlein, p. xi.

schools provided a flexible and economical approach to school construction. The standard floor plan facilitated a phased construction process in which an eight-, twelve-, or twenty-room school could be constructed and later expanded. While standard floor plans and interior finish materials were used, the exterior elevations and details of these schools varied greatly.¹⁰⁷ *See figure 129.*

In 1902, the district constructed seven new large wood-frame schools, all based on Stephen’s plan, as well as a new large brick masonry high school. They include:¹⁰⁸

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Green Lake School	1902	6500 Sunnyside Ave	James Stephen	Demolished 1986
Brooklyn School	1902	5031 University Way NE	Bebb & Mendel	Later University Heights, sold to University Heights Community Center Association, Seattle Landmark
Interbay School	1902	16 th Ave W & W Barrett St	James Stephen	Demolished 1948
Ross School	1902	Third Ave NW between 43 rd St & 44 th St	Josenhans & Allen	Demolished 1941
Walla Walla School	1902	2410 E Cherry St	Saunders & Lawton	Renamed Horace Mann School, Seattle Landmark
20 th Street School	1902	E. Thomas St & 20 th Ave E	W.E. Boone & J.M. Corner	Renamed Longfellow, later Edmund S. Meany Middle School, demolished 1960
Warren Ave. School	1902	Warren Ave N between N Harrison St. & Republican St	Albert Wikersham	Demolished 1959

Between 1904 and 1909, Stephen designed ten other Seattle schools, all based on his “model school plan,” including:¹⁰⁹ . *See figure 130.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Park School	1904	6532 Phinney Ave N	James Stephen	Renamed John B. Allen School, Seattle Landmark
Beacon Hill School	1904	16 th Ave S & Lander	Saunders & Lawton	Altered, now El Centro de la Raza
Interlake School	1904	4416 Wallingford Ave N	James Stephen	Long-term site lease, now Wallingford Center, Seattle Landmark
Madrona School	1904	33 rd Ave & E Union St.	James Stephen	Altered
John B. Hay School	1905	Bigelow St & Boston St	James Stephen	Seattle Landmark
Seward School	1905	2515 Boylston Ave E	James Stephen	Seattle Landmark
Daniel Bagley School	1906	Stone Way & N 79 th St	James Stephen	Demolished 1940

¹⁰⁷ Kathryn Hills Krafft, “James Stephen,” *Shaping Seattle Architecture: A Historical Guide to the Architects*, Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, ed. (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994), p. 61.

¹⁰⁸ Erigero, p. 10. *Seattle Sunday Times*, August 31, 1902, p. 18.

¹⁰⁹ Erigero, p. 10.

Latona School	1906	401 NE 42 nd St	James Stephen	Now John Stanford International School, altered, Seattle Landmark
Isaac I. Stevens School	1906	1242 18 th Ave E	James Stephen	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Frantz Coe School	1907	2433 Sixth Ave W	James Stephen	Destroyed by fire 2000
Van Asselt School	1909	Beacon Ave & Othello St	James Stephen w/ Edgar Blair	Altered

Other district schools during this period that were not based on the “model plan” include: *See figure 131.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Central High School	1902	6525 E Broadway Ave	W.E. Boone & J.M. Corner	Later renamed Broadway High School, demolished 1974
Parental School	1905	Mercer Island	James Stephen	A.k.a. Burbank school
Summit School	1905	1415 Summit Ave	James Stephen	Now Northwest School, Seattle Landmark
Franklin School	1906	18 th Ave S and Main St.	James Stephen	A.k.a. Washington School, demolished ca. 1975
Whittier School	1908	7501 13 th Ave NW	Newton Gauntt	Demolished 1998
Webster School	1908	3014 NW 67 th St	Frederick Sexton	Closed, scheduled to open 2020, Seattle Landmark

Between 1907 and 1908, the district began reconsidering wood-framed school buildings, with the board authorizing the construction of three brick masonry “fireproof” buildings using the model plan developed for the wood-frame schools. These include:¹¹⁰

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Lawton School	1908	25 th Ave W & Elmore	James Stephen	Demolished 1913
Fairview School	1908	844 NE 78 th St	James Stephen	Now Fairview Church
Whitworth School	1908	5215 46 th Ave S	James Stephen	Demolished 1987

These James Stephen-designed buildings were nearly identical, incorporating Tudor-style details executed in terra cotta, flat roofs, and projecting entries.

In 1908, school architect Stephen prepared a report on modern school design, construction, and equipment. This report directly led to the creation and adoption of the second “model school plan” that incorporated fireproof materials including concrete, masonry, and terra cotta. These “new” school plans also incorporated modern lavatory equipment. These later schools were often executed in late Gothic or Jacobean style, then popular, and were also designed to be expandable as necessary. Schools that followed the “new” model are:¹¹¹ *See figure 132.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Emerson School	1909	9709 60 th Ave S	James Stephen	Altered, Seattle Landmark

¹¹⁰ Erigero, p. 18.

¹¹¹ Krafft, pp. 61-63.

Adams School	1909	6129 26 th Ave NW	James Stephen	Demolished 1989
Colman School	1909	1515 24 th Ave S	James Stephen	Now African American Museum, Seattle Landmark
Greenwood School	1909	144 NW 80 th St	James Stephen	Altered

Stephen also designed the original portions of two of Seattle’s oldest extant high schools:¹¹²

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Lincoln High School	1907	4400 Interlake Ave N	James Stephen	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Queen Anne High School	1909	215 Galer St	James Stephen	Now housing, Seattle Landmark

By 1910, enrollment was at 24,758 students and more elementary school buildings were needed. Annexations of suburban areas between 1905 and 1910 brought nearly two dozen additional schools into the district service area, many of which needed replacement.¹¹³

Early 20th Century Seattle Schools and Edgar Blair

Edgar Blair, who had worked with Stephens since 1906, became the district’s architect in 1909 after Stephen resigned. Blair, a graduate of Columbia University who had previously worked at the New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, originally retained Stephen’s model plan, but eventually shifted away from Stephen’s preferred Jacobean style to Classical- and Renaissance-based schemes.¹¹⁴

Between 1910 and 1913, eight other nine-room reinforced concrete school buildings with brick veneers were constructed from Blair’s designs, including the following:¹¹⁵ *See figure 133.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Gatewood School	1910	4320 SW Myrtle St	Edgar Blair	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Ravenna School	1911	6545 Ravenna Ave NE	Edgar Blair	Altered, now Ravenna Apartments Community Center
Jefferson School	1911	4720 42 nd Ave SW	Edgar Blair	Demolished 1985
Lawton School	1912	25 th Ave & Elmore	Edgar Blair	Demolished 1987
Lake School	1912	1617 38 th Ave E	Edgar Blair	Now McGilvra, altered, Seattle Landmark
F.A. McDonald School	1912	144 N 54 th St	Edgar Blair	Altered
Concord School	1912	723 S Concord St	Edgar Blair	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Alki School	1913	Carroll St & Chilberg Ave	Edgar Blair	Demolished 1965

These similar school buildings were all eclectically styled with wood-framed hip roofs. The later buildings incorporated terra cotta stringcourses and more intricate detailing.¹¹⁶

Besides these larger nine-room school buildings, Blair was responsible for smaller, four- to six-classroom

¹¹² Krafft, pp. 61-63.

¹¹³ Erigero, p. 14.

¹¹⁴ Ibid., p. 20.

¹¹⁵ Ibid., pp. 22-23.

¹¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 22-23.

“intermediate grade of school buildings” designed for less populous neighborhood locations. These include:¹¹⁷ *See figure 134.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Harrison School	1913	3201 E Republican	Edgar Blair	Altered, sold to First African Methodist Episcopal
North Queen Anne School	1914	2919 First Ave W	Edgar Blair	Altered
Fauntleroy School	1917	9131 California Ave SW	Edgar Blair	Altered, now leased to Fauntleroy Day Care Center
Frank B. Cooper School	1917	4408 Delridge Way SW	Edgar Blair	Altered, now Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, Seattle Landmark
Crown Hill School	1919	9250 14 th Ave NW	Edgar Blair	Altered, sold to Small Faces Child Development Center

Blair also designed four school additions, so-called “border” buildings, consisting of linear single-loaded brick masonry buildings intended to be built adjacent to the lot line of existing schools. These include additions to:¹¹⁸ *See figure 135.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Allen School	1917	6615 Dayton Ave N	Edgar Blair	Sold to Phinney Neighborhood Association, Seattle Landmark
Seward School	1917	2515 Boylston Ave E.	Edgar Blair	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Latona School	1917	401 NE 42 nd St	Edgar Blair	Demolished 1999
Lowell School	1919	1058 E Mercer St	Edgar Blair	Altered

Blair designed three high schools during his tenure. These are as follows:¹¹⁹ *See figure 136.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Franklin High School	1912	3013 S Mt. Baker Blvd	Edgar Blair	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Ballard High School	1916	1418 NW 65 th St	Edgar Blair	Demolished 1997
West Seattle High School	1917	4075 SW Stevens St	Edgar Blair	Altered, City of Seattle Landmark

In 1919, four “Liberty Buildings,” wood-framed temporary annexes built cheaply to conserve materials during World War I, were built adjacent to Jefferson, Bagley, Bryant, and Fulton schools.¹²⁰

Blair resigned as school architect in March of 1918, due to differences with the fiscally conservative Nathan Eckstein, who was then serving as the chair of the district’s building committee.¹²¹

1920s and 1930s: Seattle Schools and Floyd A. Naramore

¹¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 22-23.

¹¹⁸ Erigero, pp. 22-23.

¹¹⁹ Ibid., p. 24.

¹²⁰ Ibid., p. 25.

¹²¹ Ibid., p. 25.

After World War I, and as Seattle entered the 1920s, the increased costs of providing educational programs to a growing population strained the school district. Public school enrollment grew from 51,381 in 1920, to slightly over 66,000 ten years later, requiring new construction in newly developed areas like Montlake and Laurelhurst, additions to older schools, and construction of intermediate schools and high schools. Despite a post-war recession in the early 1920s, the district entered into a phase of a well-funded building program due to school construction bond issues passed in 1919, 1923, 1925, and 1927.¹²²

Floyd A. Naramore replaced Blair as school architect in 1919, overseeing the completion of several projects already underway. An M.I.T. graduate who had already designed several schools in Portland, Oregon, Naramore would significantly influence the district’s school design until his departure for private practice in 1932. Most of Naramore’s schools were designed in a twentieth century version of the Georgian style.¹²³

With Cooper still serving as superintendent, the district continued its vocational and technical programs, building a large reinforced concrete annex (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, altered, later Edison Technical School, now part of Seattle Community College’s Central Campus) across the street to the north from Broadway High School in 1921. The same year, the district also completed a new administration and facilities building (1921, Floyd A. Naramore, demolished).¹²⁴

Cooper left the district in 1922, replaced by Thomas Cole, a former principal of Broadway High School. Cole served until 1931, and was succeeded by Worth McClure.¹²⁵

The district completed thirteen new elementary school buildings during this period, and altered several others with additions. By 1935, all elementary schools also included kindergarten, and lunchroom service was being added to all schools.¹²⁶

New elementary schools completed during this period include: *See figure 137.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Bailey Gatzert School	1921	615 12 th Ave S	Floyd A. Naramore	Demolished 1989
Highland Park School	1921	1012 SW Trenton St	Floyd A. Naramore	Demolished 1998
Martha Washington School	1921	6612 57 th Ave S	Floyd A. Naramore	Originally Girls’ Parental School, demolished 1989
Columbia School	1922	3528 S Ferdinand St	Floyd A. Naramore	
John Hay School	1922	411 Boston St	Floyd A. Naramore	Now called Queen Anne Elementary
Dunlap School	1924	8621 46 th Avenue S	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark, Altered
Montlake School	1924	2409 22 nd Ave E	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
William Cullen Bryant School	1926	3311 NE 60 th St	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
E.C. Hughes School	1926	7740 34 th Ave SW	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark

¹²² Erigero, p. 26.

¹²³ Ibid., pp. 25-26. Hoerlein, p. xi.

¹²⁴ Thompson & Marr, pp. 86-87.

¹²⁵ Hoerlein, p. xi.

¹²⁶ Ibid., p. xii.

Magnolia School	1927	2418 28 th Ave W	Floyd A. Naramore	Closed, scheduled to open 2019, Seattle Landmark
Laurelhurst School	1928	4530 46 th Ave NE	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered
Daniel Bagley School	1930	7821 Stone Ave N	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark
Loyal Heights School	1932	2511 NW 80 th St	Floyd A. Naramore	Seattle Landmark, Altered

In the early 1920s, the district considered building intermediate or “junior high school” buildings serving students in grades seven through nine, to put itself in line with national educational philosophy and relieve pressure on existing elementary and high schools. The school board officially adopted the term “junior high school” in 1932. Naramore designed four intermediate or junior high schools for the district, including:¹²⁷ *See figure 138.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Alexander Hamilton Jr. High School	1925	1610 N 41 st St	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
John Marshall Jr. High School	1927	520 NE Ravenna Blvd	Floyd A. Naramore	
Madison Jr. High School	1929	3429 45 th Ave SW	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Monroe Jr. High School	1931	1810 NW 65 th St	Floyd A. Naramore	

These school building were all built according to a “hollow square” plan with a centrally located gymnasium and lunchroom. Each included specialized science, mechanical drawing, cooking, sewing, and art rooms.

Three new high schools were completed between 1923 and 1929, all built with a “hollow square” plan and imposing primary façades.¹²⁸

High schools designed by Floyd Naramore include: *See figure 139.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Roosevelt High School	1922	1410 NE 66 th St	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
James A. Garfield High School	1923	400 23 rd Ave	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark
Cleveland High School	1927	5511 15 th Ave S	Floyd A. Naramore	Altered, Seattle Landmark

District high schools during this period adopted specialized programs for science, art, physical education, industrial arts, and home economics.¹²⁹

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a time of rising unemployment with general school enrollment declining to 57,551 in 1933. Enrollment in adult education classes dramatically

¹²⁷ Erigero, pp. 26-27. Hoerlein, p. xii.

¹²⁸ Erigero, p. 28.

¹²⁹ Hoerlein, pp. xi-xii.

increased, however. Seattle schools faced declining revenues, excess personnel and older urban facilities. Sixteen schools were closed, and their students redistributed to nearby buildings. By the end of the 1930s, there were concerns about the lack of maintenance and the conditions of older schools, prompting the district to request a tax levy for another new building program.¹³⁰

World War II

A three-million-dollar school levy passed on March 14, 1939.¹³¹ Under this levy Floyd Naramore was hired as an independent architect in partnership with Clifton Brady. He completed the design for one new school building, T.T. Minor, and a major addition and remodel at what was then called Longefellow, later renamed Edmund Meany after the addition was complete. Also, eleven other schools received minor additions and remodels from levy funds.¹³² Additions included a gymnasium at Colman School, vocation wing at Edison, additional classrooms at Van Asselt, four rooms at Laurelhurst, classrooms at McGilvra and Magnolia, and an addition at Ballard.¹³³ However, due to declining enrollment in this period, sixteen older buildings were closed, including the Ross School.¹³⁴

During World War II, Seattle became a center of aircraft and shipbuilding for the war effort and experienced a massive influx of defense workers and their families. School enrollment once again grew, especially in areas where there were no existing school facilities. Existing school facilities were expanded for the children of these workers, especially in federally funded housing project areas.¹³⁵

At the same time, the internment of 1,456 Japanese American families meant that the district lost a large number of students.¹³⁶

The district also sought to increase efficiency at this time by changing its method for designing new buildings, choosing to hire private architecture firms rather than employing a school district architect for new building programs. Once again, all buildings constructed after 1941 were considered temporary structures to conserve building materials for the war effort.¹³⁷

New schools completed during World II included: *See figure 140.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
T.T. Minor School	1941	17700 E Union St	Naramore & Brady	Altered, now Seattle World School
Duwamish Bend School	1944	5925 Third Ave S	n.a.	Later Holgate School, demolished
High Point School	1944	6760 34 th Ave SW	Stuart, Kirk, & Durham	Demolished 1987
Rainier Vista School	1944	3100 Alaska St	Holmes & Bain	Originally Columbia Annex, altered and partially demolished

¹³⁰ Erigero, pp. 28-29. Hoerlein, p. xi.

¹³¹ *Seattle Times*, "Propositions; 3-Mill School Levy (Approved)," March 15, 1939, p. 2.

¹³² Hoerlein, p. xii.

¹³³ *Seattle Times*, "Colman School Addition Starts," July 30, 1940, p. 5; "Building to be ready next Fall," September 7, 1940, p. 17; "Van Asselt School Addition Dedicated," November 16, 1940, p. 3; "Laurelhurst School Addition Dedicated," December 4, 1940, p. 5; "Board Doooms Old Buildings in \$589,000 School Programs," June 11, 1940, pp. 1, 5.

¹³⁴ Hoerlein, p. xii. *Seattle Times*, "Ross School May Be Discontinued," February 17, 1940, p. 7.

¹³⁵ Hoerlein, pp. xi-xii.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. xii.

¹³⁷ Erigero, p. 28. Hoerlein, p. xii.

Additions and improvements to more than ten other schools were also undertaken as part of a program that demolished and replaced the city’s oldest wood-frame school buildings.

Post-World War II Seattle Schools, 1946 to 1965

After World War II, enrollment swelled to a peak in the 1960s of approximately 100,000 students. Between 1946 and 1958, six separate bond issues were approved for new school construction. Samuel Fleming, employed by the district since 1908, succeeded Worth McClure as superintendent in 1945. After Fleming retired in 1956, Ernest Campbell became superintendent.¹³⁸

In 1945, the Seattle School District Board commissioned a study of population trends and future building needs. One proposal called for the modernization of all existing schools and the addition of classrooms, along with multi-use rooms for lunch and assembly purposes, covered and hard-surfaced play areas and play-courts, and expanded gymnasiums. Improvements in lighting, heating, plumbing systems, and acoustical treatments were sought as well. This survey occurred at a time when student enrollment in Seattle was stable, at around 50,000. By this time the school district was overseen by a five-member board of directors, and employed approximately 2,500 certified teachers, with an average annual salary of about \$2,880.¹³⁹

The district completed a large stadium with reinforced concrete stands (1947, George W. Stoddard) in 1947, adjacent to the National Guard Armory at Harrison Street and Fourth Avenue N, at the former Civic Field. In 1951, a war memorial shrine bearing the names of 762 Seattle schools graduates killed in World War II was dedicated at Memorial Stadium.

In 1949, a 6.8 Richter-scale earthquake damaged several elementary schools, resulting in their subsequent replacement by temporary portables. As enrollment continued to swell throughout the 1950s, these temporary structures served as a quick, flexible response to overcrowding. In 1958 an estimated twenty percent of the total Seattle student body was taught in portable classrooms. Despite their popularity, however, the occupants of the portables suffered from inadequate heating, lack of plumbing, and distance from other school facilities.¹⁴⁰

Elementary schools included separate gymnasiums and auditorium-lunchrooms. Older high schools gained additions of gymnasiums and specialized classroom space. Despite all the construction, there were still extensive needs for portable classrooms to accommodate excess enrollment.¹⁴¹

During this period the quality of construction gradually improved. The earliest school buildings, put up as rapidly as possible, included the three schools constructed in 1949. Designs prepared by George W. Stoddard for these schools were essentially linked portables with a fixed administrative wing. Each of the district’s thirty-five new school buildings was individually designed in the Modern style, with nearly all of the elementary schools constructed as one-story buildings, or on sloping sites. To conform to change in building code, each classroom had direct access to grade.

The twenty-two new elementary schools built by the district between 1948 and 1965 include: *See figures 141 & 142.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
View Ridge School	1948	7047 50 th Ave NE	William Mallis	
Arbor Heights School	1949	3701 SW 104th St	George W. Stoddard	Demolished, replacement opened 2016
Briarcliff School	1949	3901 W Dravus St	George W.	Demolished

¹³⁸ Hoerlein, p. xii.

¹³⁹ Robinson, p. 192-193. Aaren Purcell, School enrollment figures from Seattle Public Schools archives.

¹⁴⁰ Hoerlein, p. xiii.

¹⁴¹ Ibid., pp. xii-xiii.

			Stoddard	
Genesee Hill	1949	5012 SW Genesee St	George W. Stoddard	Demolished, replacement opened 2016
Lafayette School	1950	2645 California Ave SW	John Graham & Co.	
Van Asselt School	1950	7201 Beacon Ave S	Jones & Biden	temporary site for Wing Luke
Olympic Hills School	1954	13018 20 th Ave NE	John Graham & Co.	Demolished, replacement opened 2017
Viewlands School	1954	10523 Third Ave NW	Mallis & Dehart	
Wedgwood School	1955	2720 NE 85 th St	John Graham & Co.	
Northgate School	1956	11725 First Ave NE	Paul Thiry	
John Rogers School	1956	4030 NE 109 th St	Theo Damm	
North Beach School	1958	9018 24 th Ave NW	John Graham & Co.	
Roxhill School	1958	9430 30 th Ave SW	John Graham & Co.	
Sand Point School	1958	6208 60 th Ave NE	G.W. Stoddard w/ F. Huggard	
Cedar Park School	1959	13224 37 th Ave NE	Paul Thiry	Seattle Landmark
Sacajawea School	1959	9501 20 th Ave NE	Waldron & Dietz	
Decatur School	1961	7711 43 rd Ave NE	Edward Mahlum	Re-opened 2017
Graham Hill School	1961	5149 S Graham St	Theo Damm	Altered
Rainier View School	1961	11650 Beacon Ave S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	
Schmitz Park School	1962	5000 SW Spokane St	Durham, Anderson & Freed	Vacant
Broadview-Thomson School	1963	13052 Greenwood Ave N	Waldron & Dietz	
Fairmont Park School	1964	3800 SW Findlay St	Carlson, Eley & Grevstad	Altered

One of the first priorities during this period was the building of new junior high schools. Between 1950 and 1959, ten new junior high schools were completed: *See figure 143.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Eckstein Jr. High School	1950	3003 NE 75 th St	William Mallis	Seattle Landmark
Blaine Jr. High School	1952	2550 34 th Ave W	J. Lister Holmes	
Sharples Jr. High	1952	3928 S Graham St	William Mallis	Now Aki Kurose Middle School

School				
David Denny Jr. High School	1952	8402 30 th Ave SW	Mallis & Dehart	Demolished
Asa Mercer Jr. High School	1957	1600 Columbian Way S	John W. Maloney	
Whitman Jr. High School	1959	9201 15 th Ave NW	Mallis & Dehart	
Louisa Boren Jr. High School	1963	5950 Delridge Way SW	NBBJ	Now Boren K-8 STEM
George Washington Jr. High School	1963	2101 S Jackson St	John Graham & Co.	
Worth McClure Jr. High School	1964	1915 First Ave W	Edward Mahlum	

During this period the district also constructed three new high schools, including:

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Chief Sealth High School	1957	2600 SW Thistle	NBBJ	Altered
Ingraham High School	1959	1819 N 135th Street	NBBJ	Altered, portions are City of Seattle Landmark
Rainier Beach High School	1960	8815 Seward Park S	John W. Maloney	Altered
Nathan Hale High School	1963	10750 30 th Ave NE	Mallis & Dehart	Altered

Between 1943 and 1954, voters in the rapidly growing unincorporated areas north of Seattle, feeling the burden of new special school levies, and believing that there were advantages to Seattle transportation services and police and fire protection, approved at least twelve annexations to the city of Seattle. This pushed the city limits northward from a line near N 85th street, to a uniform north border at N 145th Street. These annexations brought an additional ten schools into the district from the struggling Shoreline School District.¹⁴²

Mid-1960s and 1970s Seattle Schools

After the mid-1960s and throughout the 1970s, the district suffered from declining enrollment and revenue. Repeated leadership changes in the district resulted from the short tenures of three superintendents between 1965 and 1981. Forbes Bottomly was appointed district superintendent in 1965, after Frank Campbell retired. Bottomly resigned in 1973, and was replaced by J. Loren Troxel, who had previously served as assistant superintendent. In 1976 he was replaced by David Moberly, formerly a school superintendent from Evanston, Illinois. Donald Steel, who had previously served as superintendent in Toledo, Ohio, succeeded Moberly in 1981. During this period overall enrollment in the district also declined, from over 93,000 in 1965 to approximately 43,500 in 1984.¹⁴³

The district attempted to address racial desegregation in 1963 with a volunteer transfer program, and

¹⁴² Roberta Hawkins, ed., *Shore to Shore and Line to Line: A History of the Shoreline School District* (Shoreline, WA: Shoreline Historical Museum, 2007), p. 26.

¹⁴³ Hoerlein, xiii.

multiracial readers that were tried on an experimental basis in 1965.¹⁴⁴

In 1966, a new type of school was designed based on pedagogical theories of team teaching, open space and synergy. Seven new elementary schools and one middle school were designed and built with an “open concept,” and other schools were remodeled with the removal of walls and the addition of learning resource centers. New programs for Head Start, Title 1 remedial, Special Education and Transitional Bilingual were added.

“Open Concept” schools built by the district include: *See figure 144.*

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Green Lake School	1970	6415 First Ave NE	Manson Bennett	Altered
Capt. Steven E. Sanislo School	1970	812 SW Myrtle St	Sullam, Smith & Associates	Altered
Beacon Hill School	1971	2025 14 th Ave S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	Altered
Dearborn Park	1971	2820 S Orcas St	Fred Bassetti & Company	Altered
Kimball School	1971	3200 23 rd Ave S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	Altered
Wing Luke School	1971	3701 S Kenyon St	Fred Bassetti & Company	Demolished, replacement scheduled to open 2021
Maple School	1971	4925 Corson Ave S	Durham, Anderson & Freed	Altered
South Shore Middle School	1973	4800 S Henderson	NBBJ	Demolished, replacement opened 2009

By 1977, the Seattle School Board instigated a sweeping desegregation plan that included bussing approximately 12,000 students, with over half of Seattle’s schools involved. As a result, public school enrollment dropped by half from the 1960s, and private school enrollment throughout the city grew. The school board was forced to enact a school closure plan. By 1984, the district had closed two high schools, seven junior high schools, and twenty elementary schools. Mandatory busing eased in the late 1980s, in response to litigation by community groups in north end neighborhoods and court rulings.¹⁴⁵

1980s to Present Day Seattle Schools

Deputy district superintendent Robert L. Nelson was appointed superintendent in 1984 to serve a two-year term after Steele resigned. William M. Kendrick was appointed superintendent in 1986, after a national search. Kendrick served nine years and was succeeded by retired army general John Stanford. Stanford proved to be a capable and dynamic leader, but a terminal illness led to his replacement in 1998 by the district’s chief operations manager, Joseph Olchefske.¹⁴⁶

In 1984, many schools needed upgrading or replacement, and a bond issue passed for thirteen new Elementary Schools, upgrading Ballard High and a new facility for Franklin High. Community debates about preservation followed this bond issue. The School Board also decided that excess properties were

¹⁴⁴ Ibid., xiv.

¹⁴⁵ Hoerlein, pp. xiii-xiv. *Seattle Times*, “Seattle Schools and Race: a History,” June 1, 2008, n. p.

¹⁴⁶ Hoerlein, pp. xiv-xv.

an asset to the Seattle School District and therefore should not be sold, but rather leased to community groups. Only three of the decommissioned schools were demolished so that the underlying property could be leased, and the rest of the buildings either sit empty or are being revamped for other purposes by long-term leaseholders.¹⁴⁷

In the 1990s, the school district’s major capital construction program continued with passage of three Building Excellence Levies (BEX) approved by voters in 1995, 2004, and 2007, which called for new construction, renovations, additions, and infrastructure and technology improvements.

For the 2011-2012 school year, there were over 47,000 enrolled students. Although this is less than half the number of fifty years ago, the number of students is gradually increasing. The district presently operates ninety-one schools, of which fifty-four are elementary schools, twelve are high schools, ten are K-8 schools, nine are middle schools, and six are alternative schools. The district has more than 8,000 staff including 3,100 teachers, 835 paraprofessional, 660 certified instructional staff, and 150 principals. Seattle Public Schools had a general fund budget of 558.3 million dollars in the 2009-10 operational year.¹⁴⁸

At least nine new schools were built in Seattle between the late 1980s and 2000, including:

School	Year	Address	Designer	Notes
Olympic View Elementary	1989	504 NE 95 th St	Eric Meng Associates	
Whitworth Elementary	1989	5215 46 th Ave S	WMFL Architects and Engineers	
The African American Academy	1990	8311 Beacon Ave S	Streeter & Associates	
J.M. Colman School/ Thurgood Marshall Elementary	1991	2401 S Irving Street	Mahlum & Nordfors	
West Woodland Elementary School	1991	5601 4 th Ave NW	Olson Sundberg Architects	
Frank B. Cooper School/ Pathfinder	1999	1901 SW Genesee	Tsang Partnership	The old Cooper school is in a separate location and houses the Delridge Cultural Arts Center
Ballard High School	1999	1418 NW 65 th Street	Mahlum & Nordfors McKinley Gordon	Old Ballard High School demolished in 1997
Highland Park Elementary	1999	1012 SW Trenton St	Burr Lawrence Rising + Bates	
Whittier Elementary	1999	1320 NW 75 th Street	DLR/ John Graham & Associates	

Seattle Public Schools is currently initiating the BEX V program, which is funded by the capital levy approved by voters in February 2019.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., pp. xiv-xvi.

¹⁴⁸ Seattle Public Schools, “About Our District,”

<http://www.seattleschools.org/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=192400&sessionid=b4971349d1af6502c8dd8f441e4ab25>.

4.7 Building Designer: Olson/Sundberg, Architects

The West Woodland Elementary School that opened in 1991 was designed by the Seattle architectural firm of Olson/Sundberg.

Olson/Sundberg was formed in 1985 by James W. P. Olson and Richard Sundberg. In 1992 the firm employed 22 architects and five administrative personnel. At that time approximately 50% of the firm's projects were residential, 20% was public or institutional projects, and the remaining 30% was evenly split between museums and galleries, urban planning, and religious projects.¹⁴⁹

The firm received numerous awards for residential projects and notable larger commissions. These included Hillclimb Court (1979-82, Seattle), the Seattle Art Museum expansion (1991, Seattle), the Frye Art Museum expansion (1995-1997, Seattle), the Heiner Center/Fine Arts Building of Whatcom Community College (1995-1997, Bellingham), St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral expansion (1995-1998, Seattle), Sullivan Hall of Seattle University (1997-2000, Seattle), and the Mission Hill Family Estate Winery (1997-2001, Westbank, B.C.).¹⁵⁰

In 2000, the firm became Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen, with the addition of Tom Kundig and Scott Allen as principals. Richard Sundberg and Scott Allen left the firm in 2009, with Olson and Kundig forming the firm Olson Kundig Architects.¹⁵¹

James (Jim) W. P. Olson was born in Missouri in 1941. He attended the University of Washington from 1959 to 1963, earning a Bachelor of Architecture.¹⁵² In 1965 he was employed by Ralph Anderson, and the following year went into private practice in Seattle. Between 1971 and 1985, he partnered with Gordon K. Walker. Notable projects of that firm include several residential projects: Gas Works Park with Richard Hague (1971-1988, Seattle), renovations to the Hambach and Holyoke buildings (Seattle), Hillclimb Court Apartments (1982, Seattle), and the Pike and Virginia Condominiums (1978-1979, Seattle).¹⁵³ Olson is particularly known for museum designs that include the Frye Art Museum expansion, and has completed many commissions for art collectors over the world. Olson became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1990 and received the AIA Seattle Chapter Medal of Honor in 2007.¹⁵⁴

Rick Sundberg was born in Seattle in 1943. He attended the University of Washington, earning a Bachelor of Architecture in 1963. He was employed by Seattle architect Ibsen Nelson between 1967 and 1974. He then was employed by the Seattle architecture firm of Olson Walker, becoming a principal in 1976. He formed a partnership with Jim Olson in 1985 and went into private practice in 2010. Sundberg became an AIA fellow in 1996. Sundberg's notable projects include numerous residential projects, his work with the Frye Art Museum expansion, the Wing Luke Museum (2008, Seattle), and buildings on the Whatcom Community College (Bellingham) and the Seattle University (1996-1997) campuses.¹⁵⁵ **See figures 145-150.**

¹⁴⁹ Alan Michelson, "Olson/Sundberg Architects (Partnership)," Pacific Coast Architecture Database (PCAD), <http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/firm/1557/> (accessed January 2019).

¹⁵⁰ David A. Rash, "Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen," *Shaping Seattle Architecture*, Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, ed. (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2014), p. 467.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 466.

¹⁵² Alan Michelson, "James W. P. Olson (Architect)," Pacific Coast Architecture Database (PCAD), <http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/2382> (accessed January 2019).

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹⁵⁵ Alan Michelson, "Richard Sundberg (Architect)," Pacific Coast Architecture Database (PCAD), <http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/2131/> (accessed January 7, 2019).

4.8 Building Contractor: Cree Construction Co., Inc.¹⁵⁶

Seattle Public Schools records list Cree Construction Co., as the builder of the subject building. However, although several companies known as Cree Construction Co. currently exist in both the United States and Canada, the precise company responsible for the construction of the 2001 West Woodland Elementary School could not be determined.¹⁵⁷ No further information is currently available for the builder.

Prepared by:
Ellen F. C. Mirro, AIA
Larry E. Johnson, AIA
Katie Jaeger
Audrey N. Reda
The Johnson Partnership
1212 NE 65th Street
Seattle, WA 98115
www.tjp.us

¹⁵⁶ Seattle Public Schools, "West Woodland Elementary School," *New Schools Dedication '91: Colman Elementary School, B.F. Day Elementary School, Gatewood Elementary School, Muir Elementary School, West Woodland Elementary School – Phase I of the Capital Improvement Program* (Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Schools, 1991).

¹⁵⁷ The representative of Cree Construction Co. in Lynwood, Washington did not recall any association with the West Woodland Elementary School building. Representatives from the Cree Construction Co., owned by the James Bay Cree of Northern Québec and located in Chissaiibi, Québec, did not respond to inquiries at the time of report publication.

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- . "Register Your Pledge for War Savings Stamps Tomorrow." June 27, 1918, p. 8.
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- . “Van Asselt School Addition Dedicated.” November 16, 1940, p. 3
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- . “Ballard Schools Bring Load Of Debt.” June 15, 1907, p. 7.
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- . “Charges Against Teacher Dropped.” July 30, 1931, p. 8.
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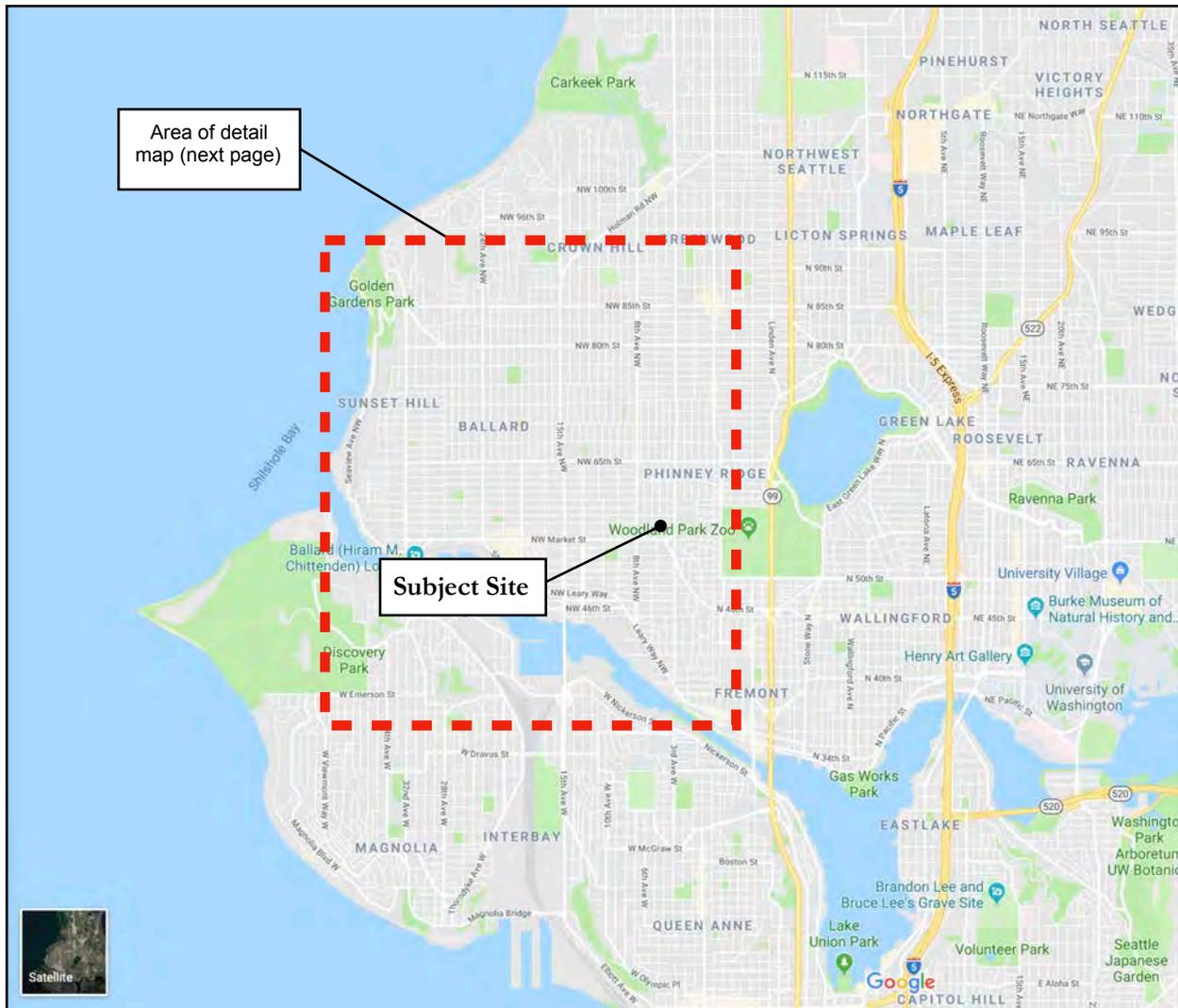
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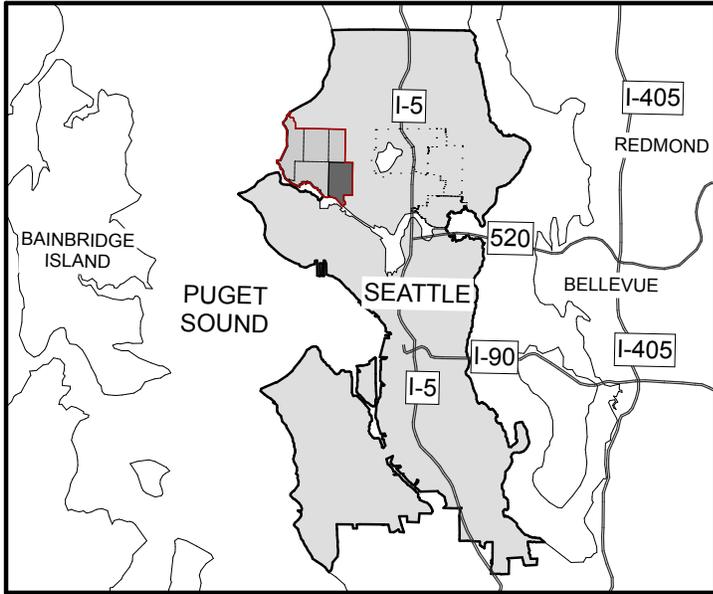
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Appendix 1

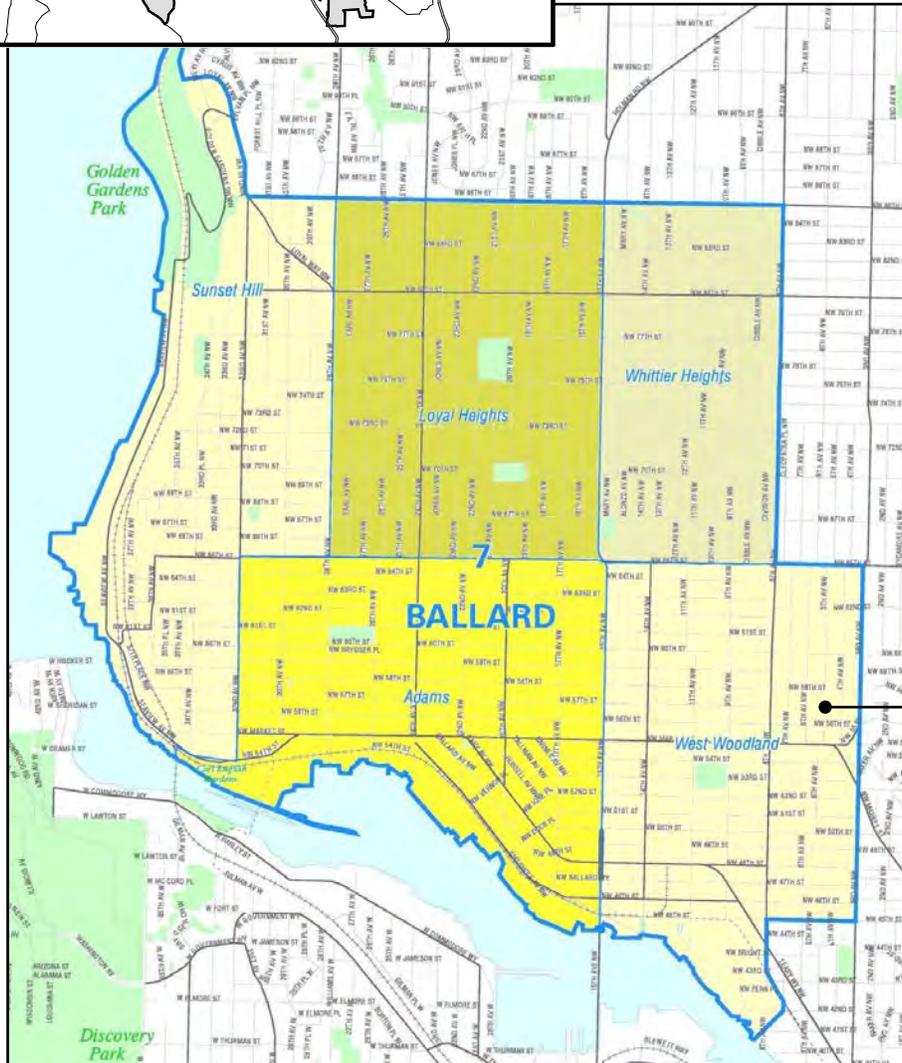
Figures



1. Location Map



Seattle City Clerk



Subject Site

2. Ballard Neighborhood Map

West Woodland Elementary School Landmark Nomination Report



3. Neighborhood Aerial

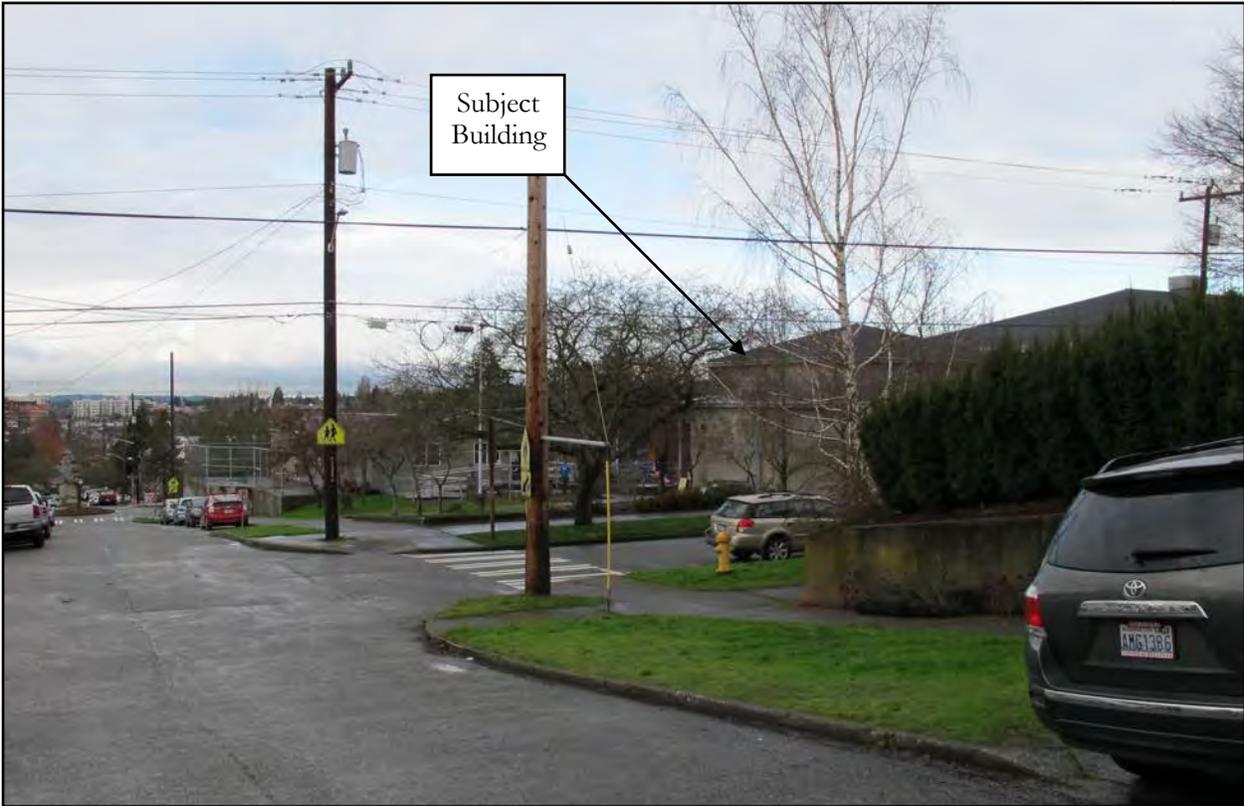


4. View A—Viewing south on Fourth Ave NW



5. View B—Viewing west on NW 58th Street

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report



6. View C—Viewing west on NW 56th Street



7. View D—Viewing north on Fourth Ave NW

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report

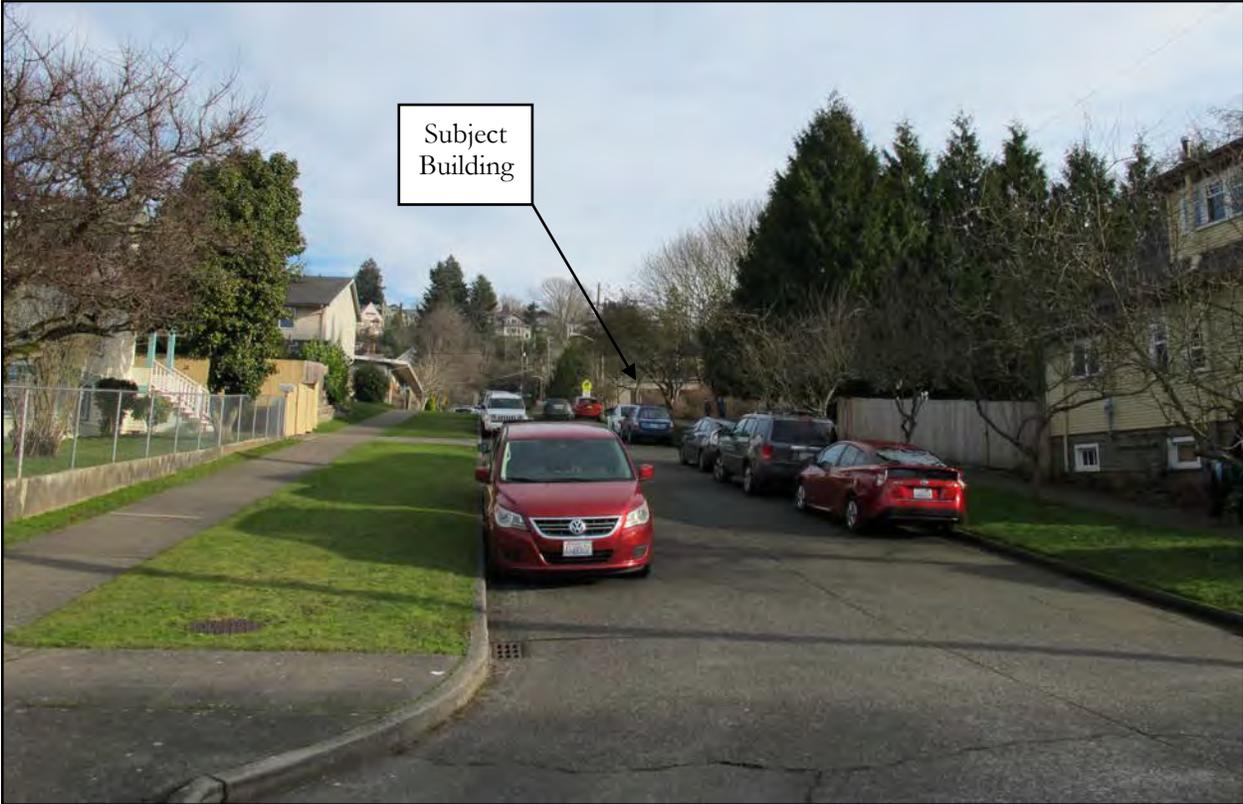


8. View E—Viewing north on Fifth Ave NW



9. View F—Viewing east on NW 56th Street

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report

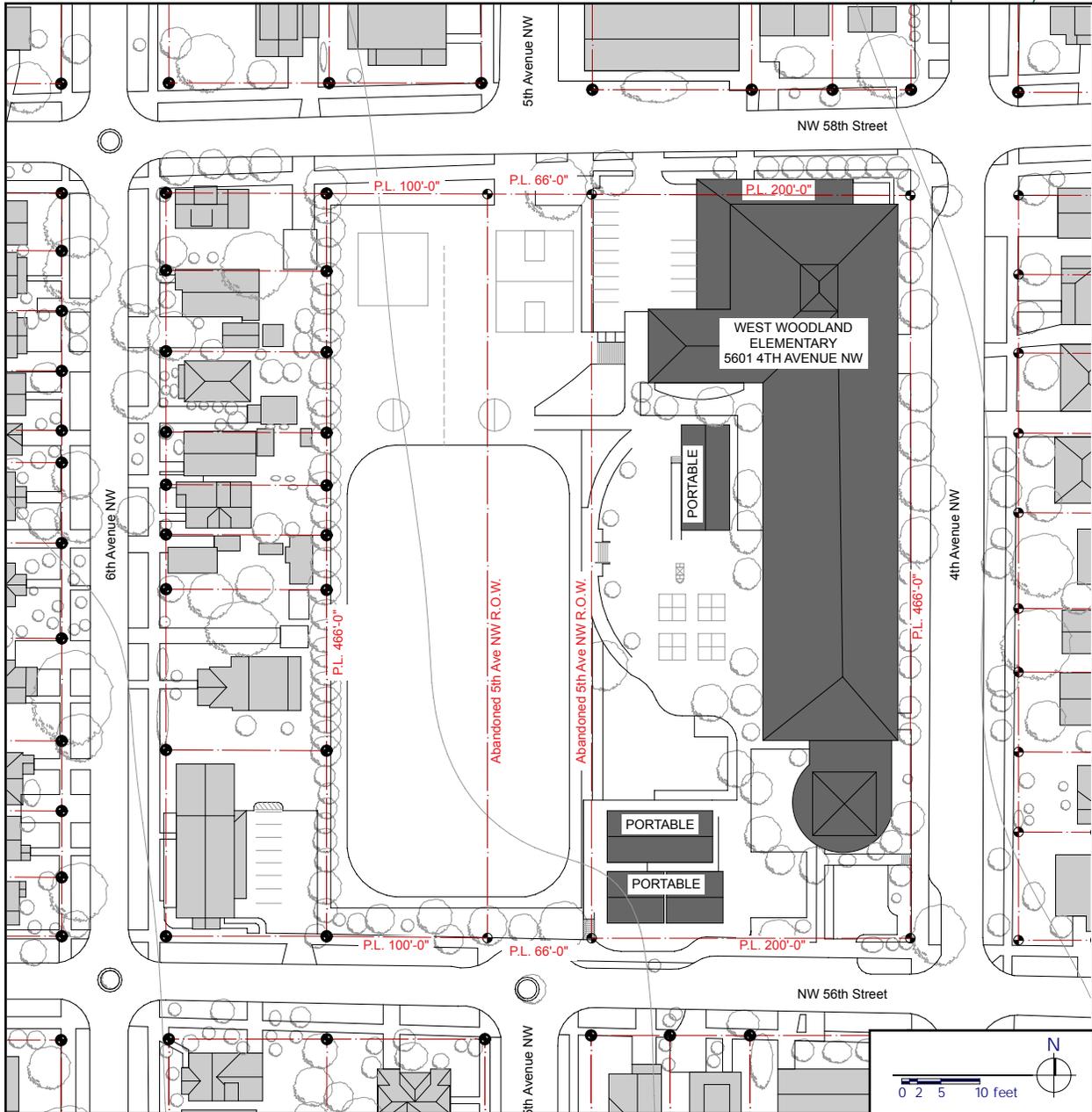


10. View G—Viewing west on NW 58th Street

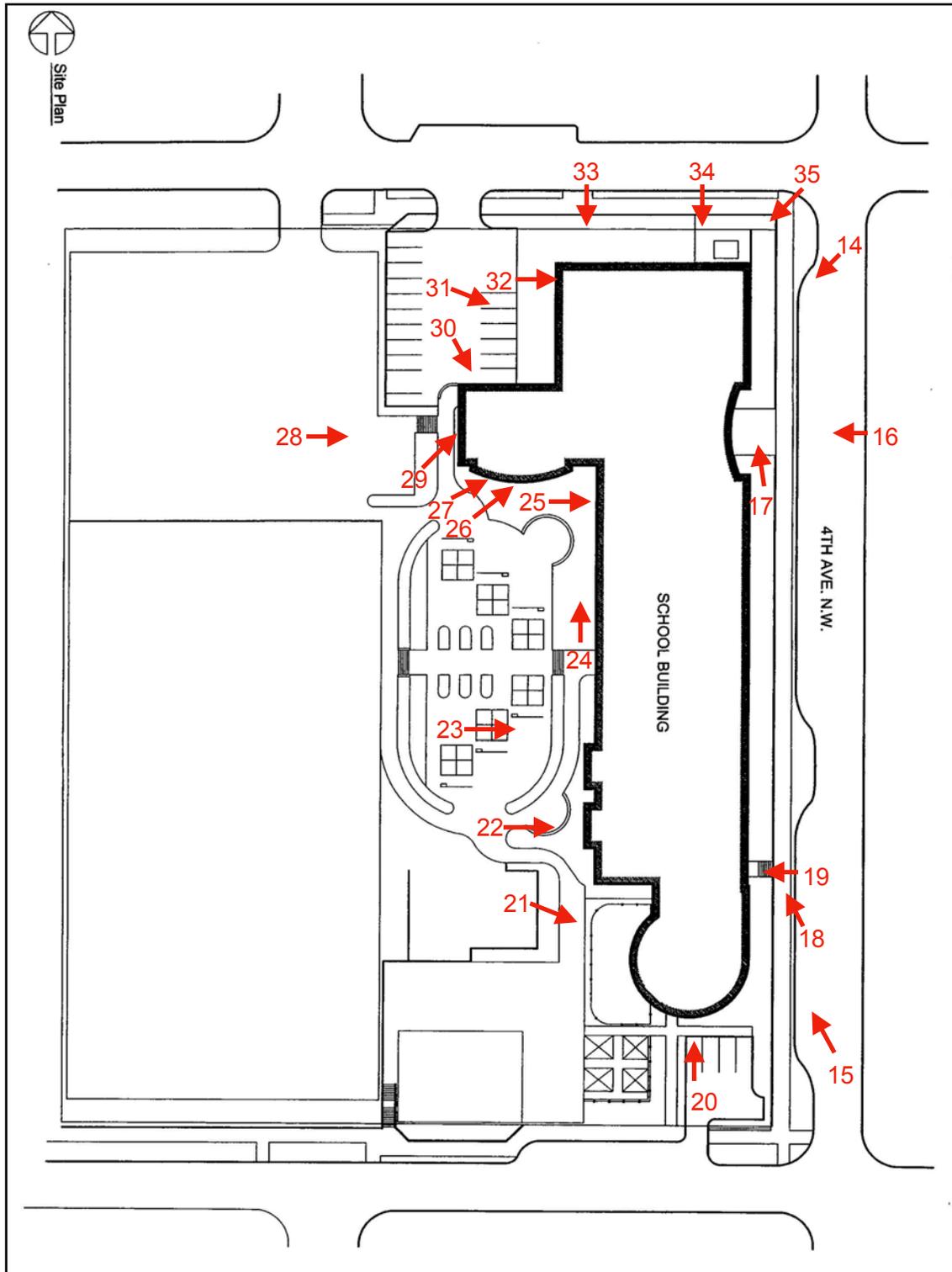


11. View H—Viewing south on Fifth Ave NW

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report



12. West Woodland Elementary: Site Plan



13. West Woodland Elementary: Site Plan and Photo key



14. West Woodland Elementary: eastern façade looking south



15. West Woodland Elementary: eastern façade looking north



16. West Woodland Elementary: eastern façade entry detail



17. West Woodland Elementary: eastern façade canopy detail

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report



18. West Woodland Elementary: eastern façade southern portion detail



19. West Woodland Elementary: eastern façade southern exit detail



20. West Woodland Elementary: southern façade of childcare wing



21. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of childcare wing



22. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of classroom wing, southern end



23. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of classroom wing, central



24. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of classroom wing behind adjacent portable



25. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of classroom wing with adjacent portable



26. West Woodland Elementary: southern façade of projecting western LRC wing



27. West Woodland Elementary, southern façade of projecting western LRC wing detail



28. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of projecting western LRC wing



29. West Woodland Elementary: western façade of projecting western LRC wing detail

West Woodland Elementary School Landmark Nomination Report



30. West Woodland Elementary: northern façade of projecting western LRC wing



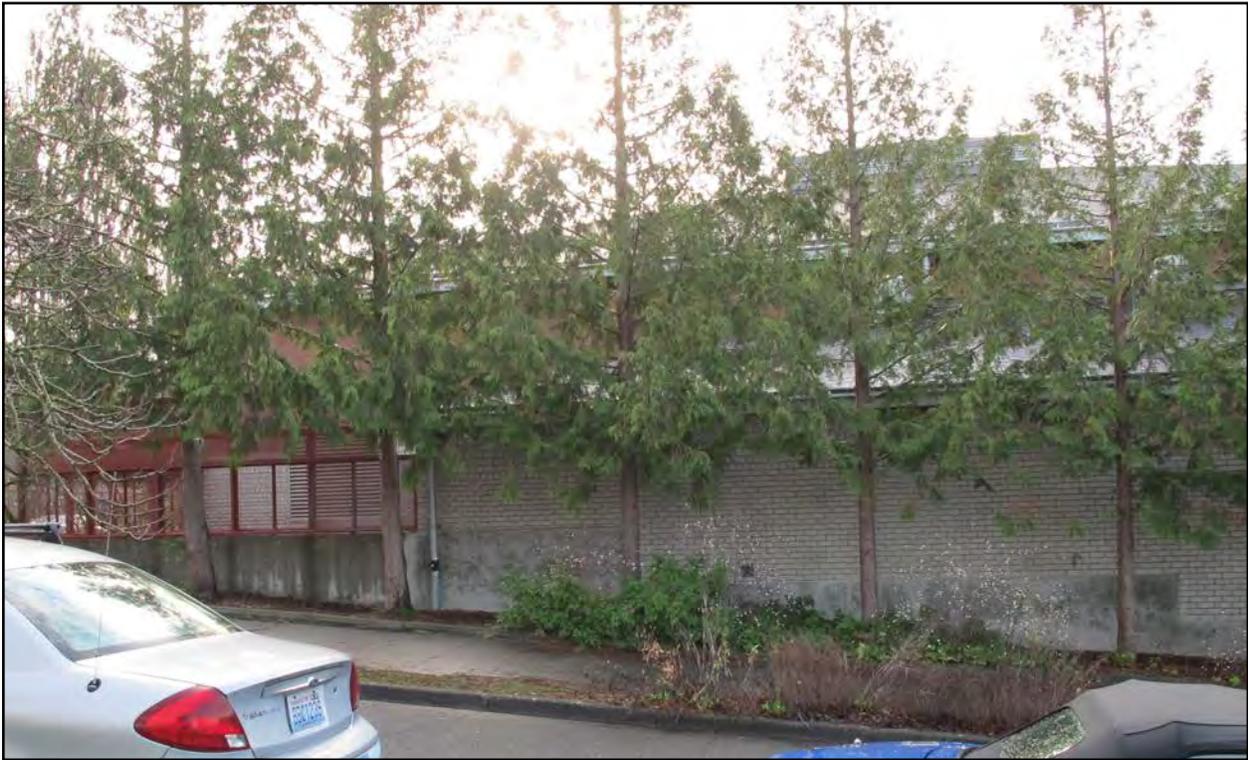
31. West Woodland Elementary: Multipurpose room/Gymnasium, western façade



32. West Woodland Elementary: Multipurpose room/Gymnasium, western façade, loading dock detail



33. West Woodland Elementary: Multipurpose room/Gymnasium, northern façade, western end

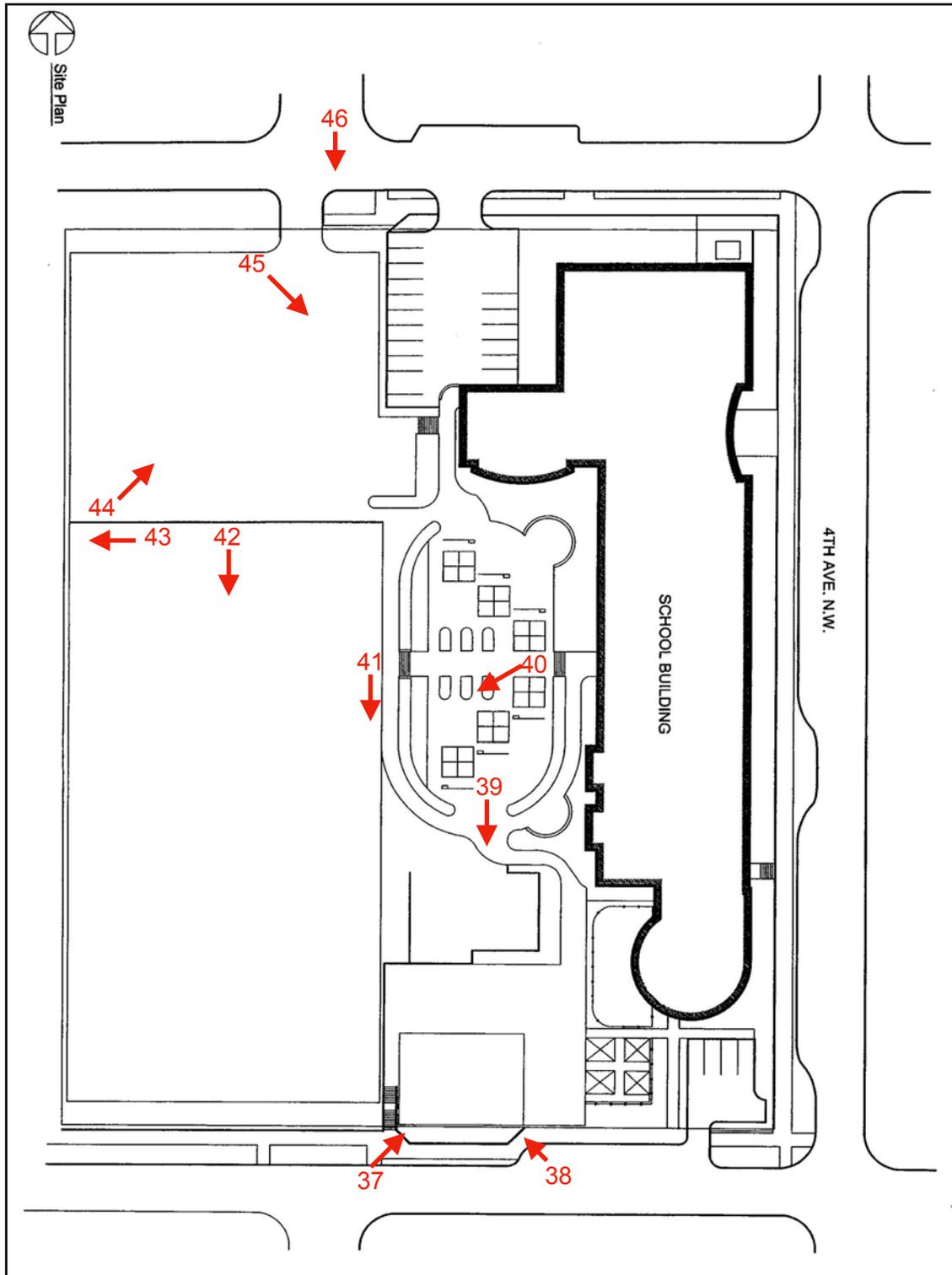


34. West Woodland Elementary: Multipurpose room/Gymnasium, northern façade, eastern end



35. West Woodland Elementary: Multipurpose room/Gymnasium northern façade, northeastern corner detail

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report



36. West Woodland Elementary: Site Plan and Photo key



37. West Woodland Elementary: view of concrete wall and southern portables



38. West Woodland Elementary: detail of southern mural in concrete wall



39. West Woodland Elementary: soft surface for play equipment near southern portables



40. West Woodland Elementary: view of playground looking southwest



41. West Woodland Elementary: view of elevated asphalt playground looking south



42. West Woodland Elementary: grass playfield detail looking south



43. West Woodland Elementary: detail of fence and plantings at western edge of site



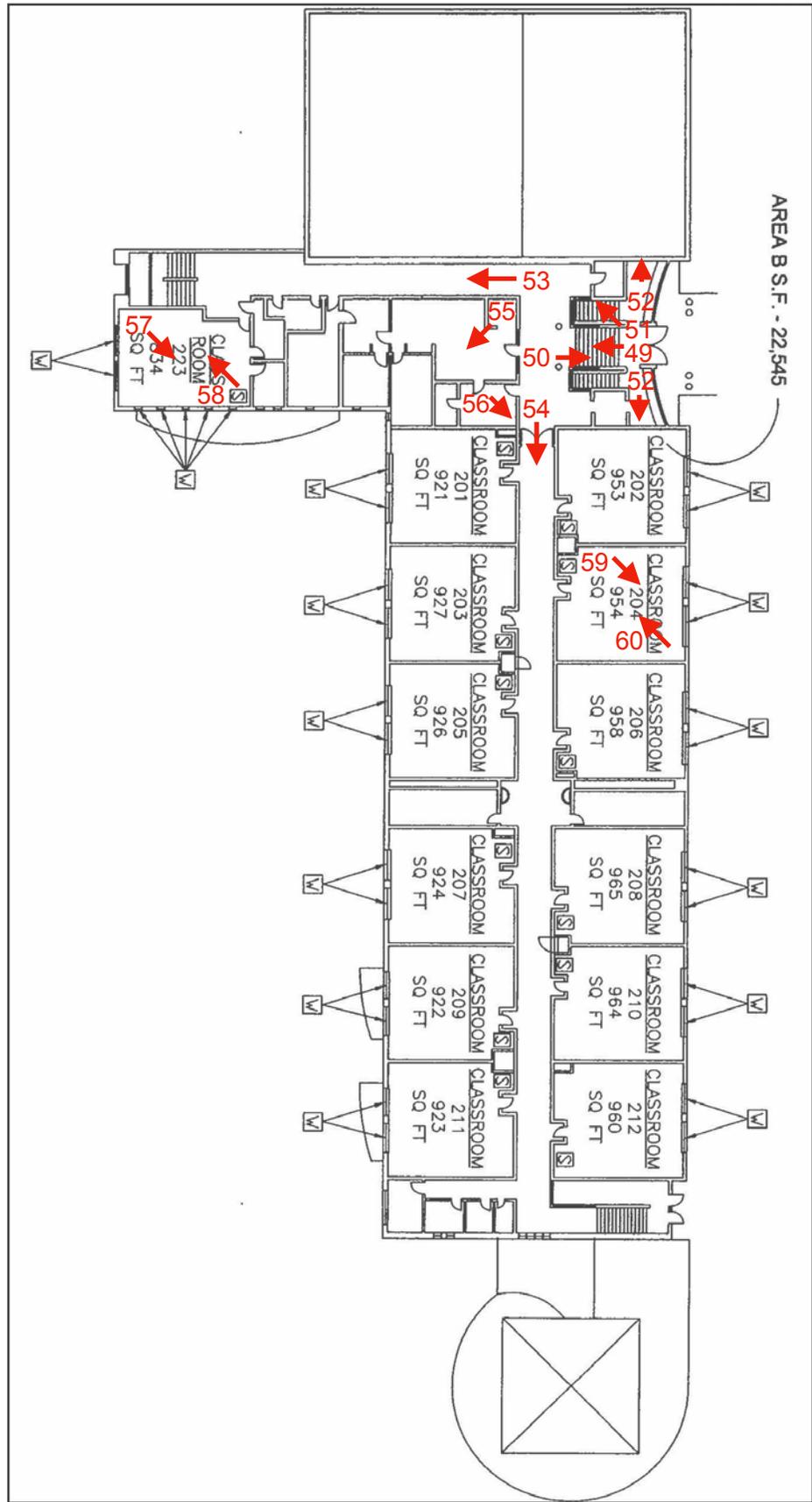
44. West Woodland Elementary: asphalt playground looking north



45. West Woodland Elementary: detail of mural in northern concrete wall

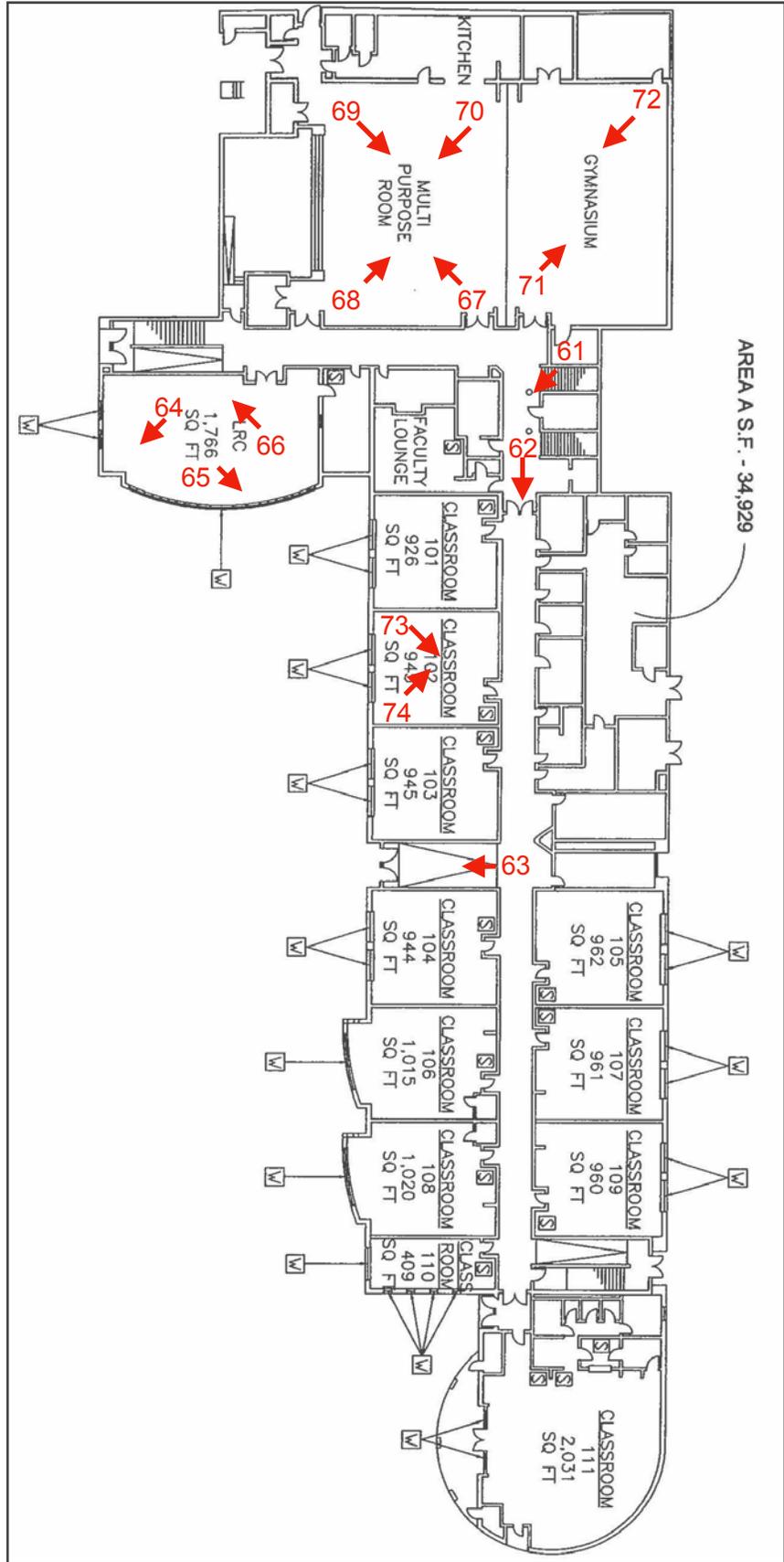


46. West Wood Elementary: view of northern concrete wall looking south



47. West Woodland Elementary: Upper Floor Plan and Photo key

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report



48. West Woodland Elementary: Lower Floor Plan and Photo key

West Woodland Elementary School
Landmark Nomination Report



49. West Woodland Elementary: main entry lobby, stair detail looking west



50. West Woodland Elementary: main entry lobby, looking east



51. West Woodland Elementary: main entry lobby, stair detail



52. West Woodland Elementary: main entry lobby, viewing north & south



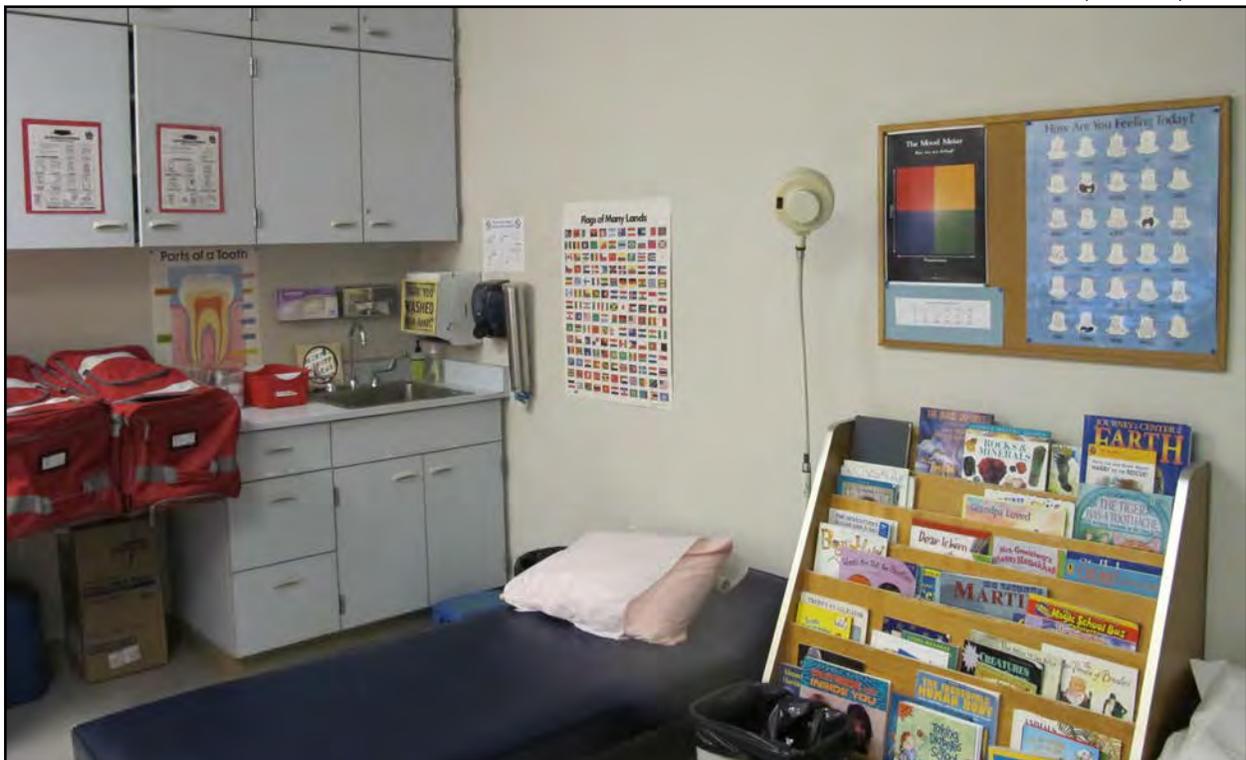
53. West Woodland Elementary: upper level hall looking west



54. West Woodland Elementary: upper level hall looking south



55. West Woodland Elementary: upper level, main office



56. West Woodland Elementary: upper level, infirmary



57. West Woodland Elementary: upper level, arts & science room looking southeast



58. West Woodland Elementary: upper level, arts & science room looking northwest



59. West Woodland Elementary: upper level, typical classroom looking southeast



60. West Woodland Elementary: upper level, typical classroom looking northwest



61. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, stair rail and column detail



62. West Woodland Elementary: lower level viewing hallway



63. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, exit to playground looking west



64. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, LRC book stacks looking west



65. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, LRC library lecture area looking south



66. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, LRC study area looking west



67. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, Multipurpose Room looking northwest toward kitchen



68. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, Multipurpose Room looking northeast toward kitchen



69. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, Multipurpose Room looking southeast



70. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, Multipurpose Room looking southwest toward elevated platform

West Woodland Elementary School Landmark Nomination Report



71. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, gymnasium looking northeast



72. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, gymnasium looking southwest



73. West Woodland Elementary: lower level, typical classroom looking southeast



74. West Woodland Elementary: Lower Level, typical classroom looking northeast

Courtesy of Paul Dorpat



75. Hwelchteed, circa 1900

MOHAI 83.10.9,067



76. Hwelchteed's house at Shilshole with canoe anchored offshore, ca. 1905



77. West Woodland Neighborhood: Woodland Park Entrance, 1889

MOHAI SHS11817



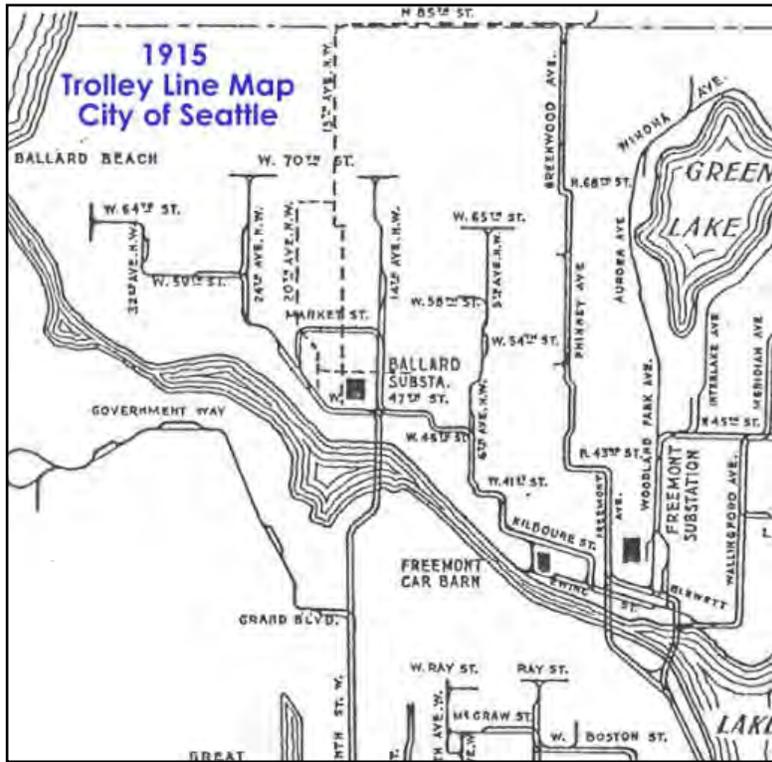
78. West Woodland Neighborhood: Jensen Residence, 1893



79. West Woodland Neighborhood: Woodland Grocery, Flour & Feed, 1905



80. West Woodland Neighborhood: Woodland Hall, 1910



81. West Woodland Neighborhood: Trolley Line Map, 1915



82. West Woodland Neighborhood: NW 65th Street and Seventh Avenue NW, 1937

West Woodland Elementary School
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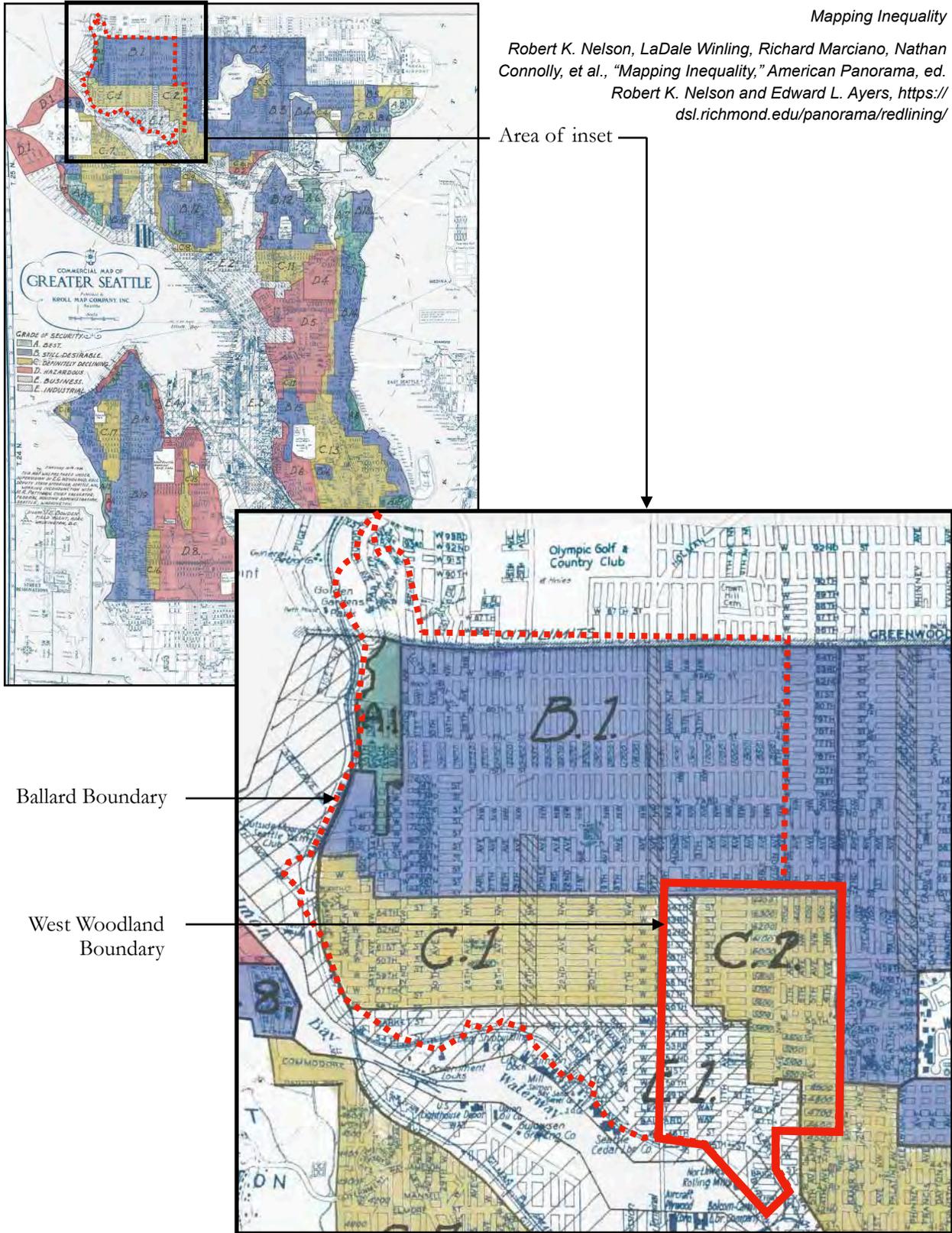
83. West Woodland Neighborhood: Aerial from above Ballard to Fremont, 1947



MOHAI

84. West Woodland Neighborhood: North End of Ballard Bridge, 1958

Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., "Mapping Inequality," *American Panorama*, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/>



Ballard Boundary

West Woodland Boundary

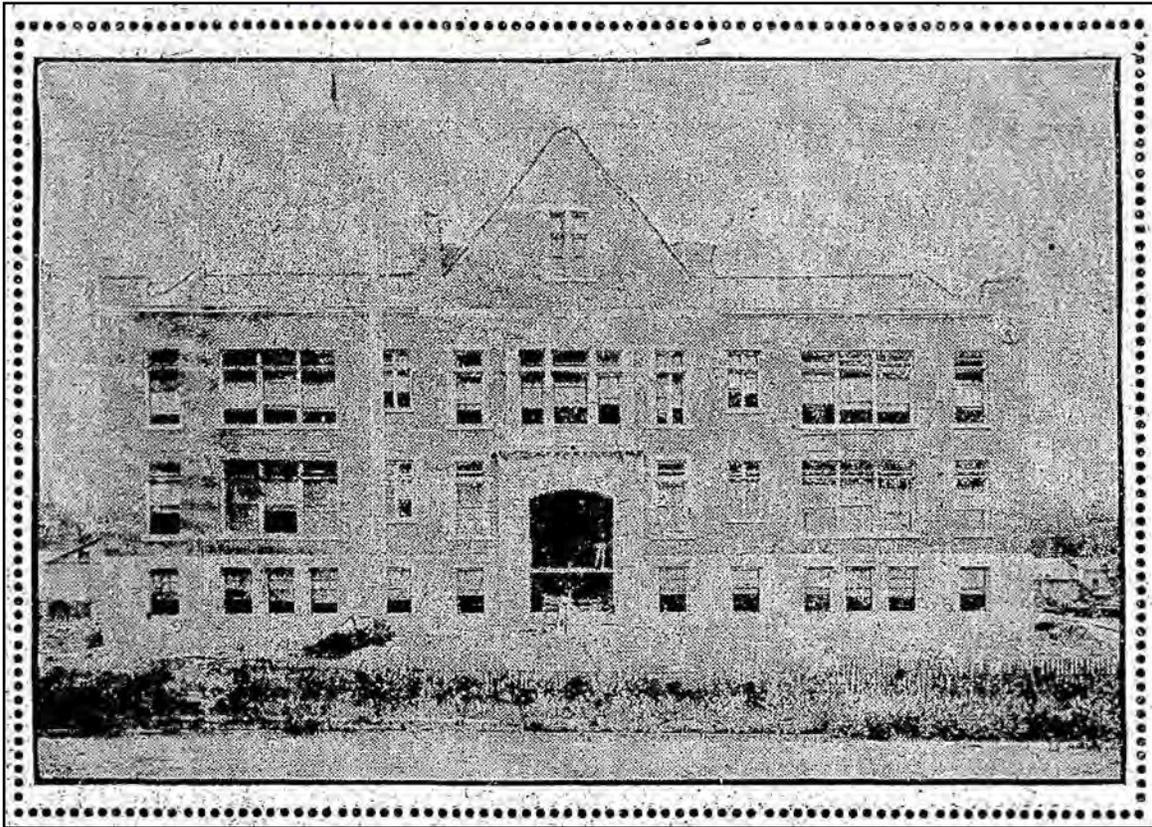
85. City of Seattle Redline map. "Prepared under the supervision of E. G. Wendland, H.O.L.C., Deputy State Appraiser, Seattle, WN., working in conjunction with M. R. Pattison, Chief Valuator, Federal Housing Administration, Seattle Washington, (signed) T. H. Bowdern Field Agent, H.O.L.C. Washington D.C. January 10th, 1936." Overlaid on a 1935 Kroll Map.



86. West Woodland Neighborhood: View west towards future Market Street location, circa 1900



87. West Woodland Neighborhood: NW 55th Street looking west, circa 1910



88. "New West Woodland School on 58th Avenue," Original Building, July 10, 1910



89. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, circa 1913



90. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, needlework, date unknown



91. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1937

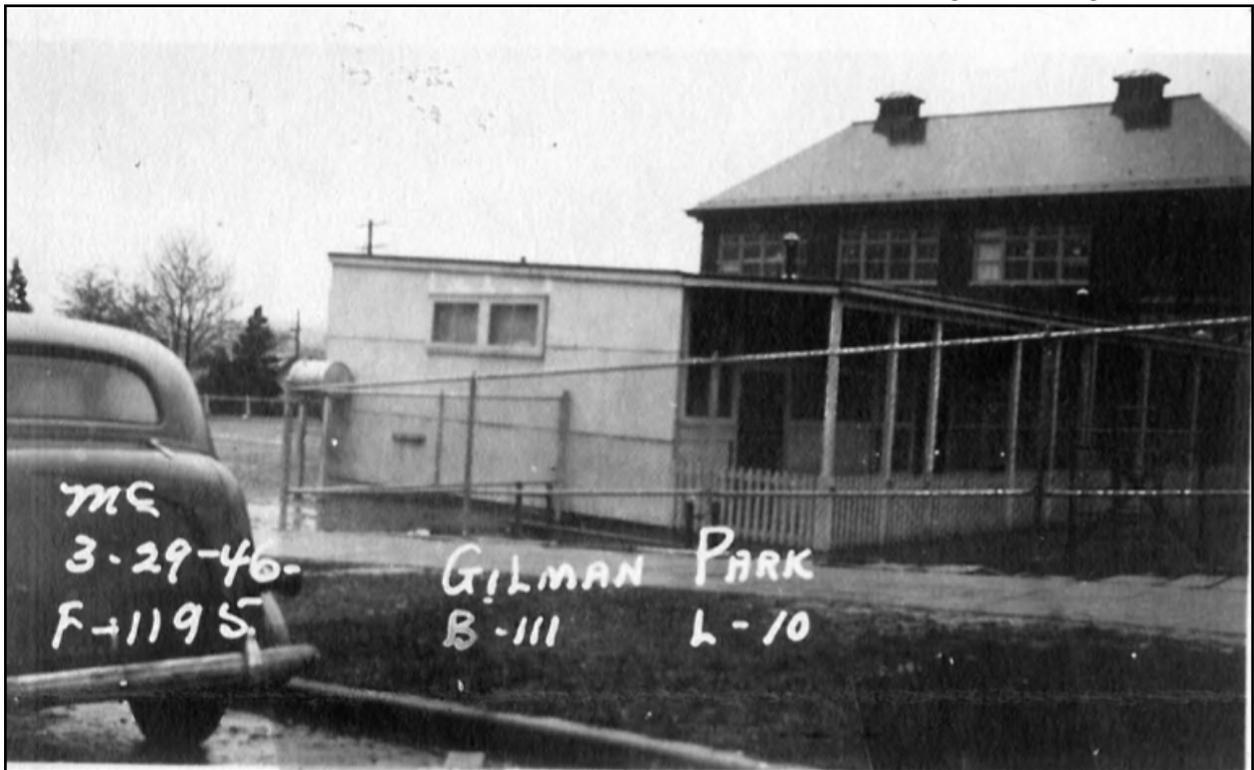
West Woodland Elementary School
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92. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, 1940



93. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, 1946



94. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1953



95. Woodland Elementary: Original Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1953

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96. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1953



97. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, 1960



98. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, Aerial Photograph: 1960



99. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, Aerial View, 1960



100. West Woodland Elementary: Original Building, 1965



101. West Woodland Elementary: demolition of original building, 1990



102. West Woodland Elementary: empty lot, 1990



103. West Woodland Elementary: current building under construction, 1990

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104. West Woodland Elementary: Current Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1991



105. West Woodland Elementary: Current Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1991



106. West Woodland Elementary: Current Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1991



107. West Woodland Elementary: Current Building, Tax Assessor Photo, 1991



108. West Woodland Elementary: current building, completed, 1991



109. West Woodland Elementary: current building, 2000



110. West Woodland Elementary: current building, 2018



111. The Guild House (1963, Robert Venturi & John Rauch), Philadelphia, PA



112. Mother's House (1964, Robert Venturi & Denise Scott Brown), Philadelphia, PA



113. Piazza d'Italia (1978, Charles Moore and Perez & Associates), New Orleans, LA

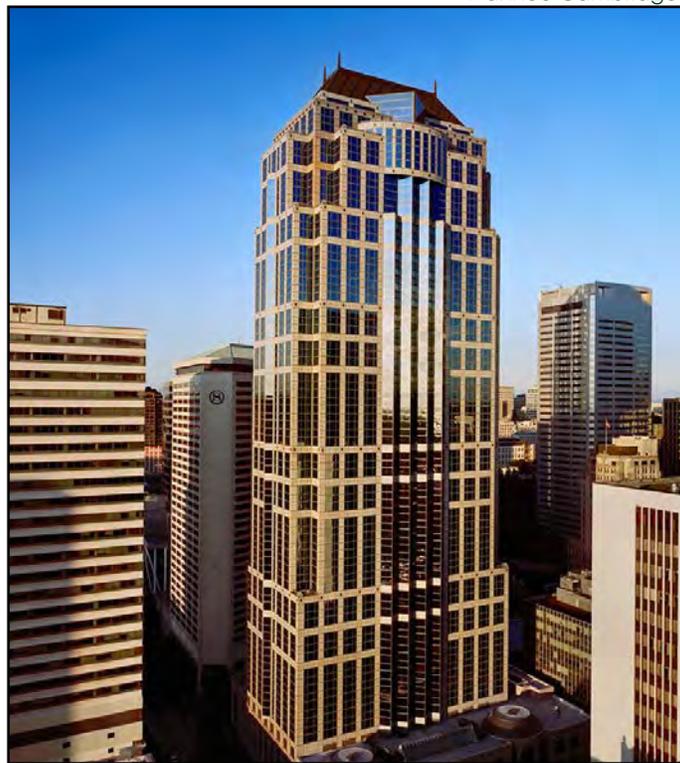


114. AT&T Building (1984, Philip Johnson & John Burgee), New York, NY



115. Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center (1986, ARC), Seattle, WA

Ivanhoe Cambridge



116. U.S. Bank Center (1989, Callison Architecture), Seattle



117. Washington Mutual Tower (1988, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates), Seattle, WA

Rootology



118. Seattle Art Museum (1991, Venturi Scott Brown), Seattle



119. Delridge Community Center (1992, BOLA Architecture + Planning), Seattle WA

Michael Canatsey Associates, PLLC



120. Rainier Community Center (1996, Michael Canatsey Associates, PLLC), Seattle, WA



121. St Coletta School (2006, Michael Graves), Washington D.C.

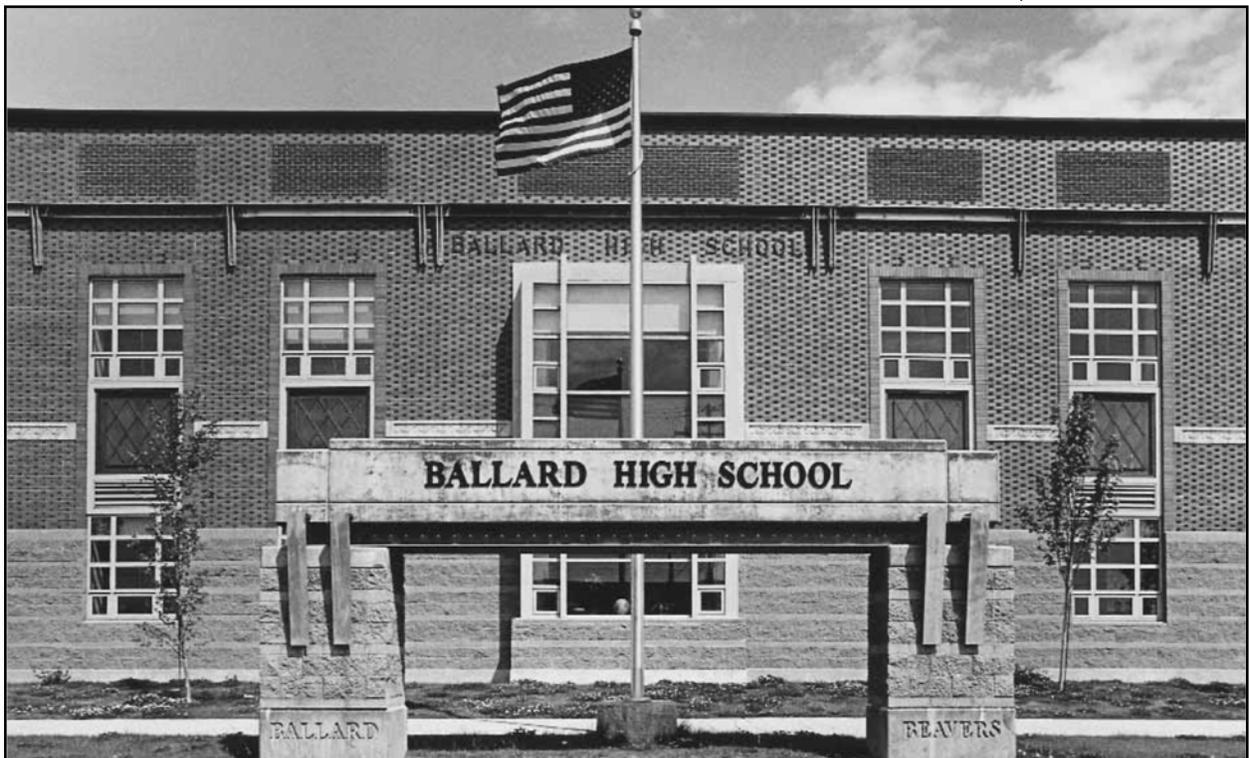
SPS



122. Olympic View Elementary (1989, Eric Meng Associates)



123. The African American Academy (1990, Streeter & Associates)



124. Ballard High School (1999, Mahlum & Nordfors McKinley Gordon)



125. Whittier Elementary (1999, DLR/John Graham & Associates)



126. Leschi Elementary addition (1988, Church/Suzuki)



127. Sixth Street School, also named Central School, 1885 (1883-1888, destroyed by fire)



128. B.F. Day School, (1892, John Parkinson, 1901 addition by James Stephen, City of Seattle Landmark)



129. Green Lake School (1902, James Stephen)

MOHAI 1983.10.746



130. John B. Hay School (1905, James Stephen, City of Seattle Landmark)



131. Central High School/Broadway High School (1902, W.E. Boone & J.M. Corner, altered)



132. Adams School (1901, James Stephen, demolished)



133. Ravenna School (1911, Edgar Blair)

MOHAI 1983.10.4201



134. Frank B. Cooper School (1917, Edgar Blair, City of Seattle Landmark)



135. Seward School (1917, Edgar Blair, City of Seattle Landmark)



136. Franklin High School (1912, Edgar Blair, City of Seattle Landmark)



137. Laurelhurst School (1928, Floyd A. Naramore, altered)



138. John Marshall Jr. High School (1927, Floyd A. Naramore)



139. Roosevelt High School (1922, Floyd A. Naramore, City of Seattle Landmark, altered)



140. Rainier Vista School, Seattle (1943, J. Lister Holmes)



141. Arbor Heights Elementary (1949, George W. Stoddard, demolished)



142. Cedar Park Elementary (1959, Paul Thiry, City of Seattle Landmark)



143. Eckstein Junior High (1950, William Mallis, City of Seattle Landmark)

The Johnson Partnership, 4-26-13



144. Captain Steven E. Sanislo School (1970, Sullam, Smith & Associates, altered)



145. Hillclimb Court (1979-82, Olson/Sundberg, Architects), Seattle WA



146. Frye Art Museum Expansion (1995-1997, Olson/Sundberg, Architects), Seattle, WA



147. Whatcom Community College Heiner Center (1995-1998, Olson/Sundberg), Bellingham, WA



148. Saint Mark's Cathedral Expansion (1995-1998, Olson/Sundberg), Seattle



149. Seattle University School of Law Sullivan Hall (1997-2000, Olson/Sundberg), Seattle



150. Mission Hill Family Estate Winery (1997-2001, Olson/Sundberg), Westbank, B.C.

Appendix 2 Architectural Drawings